

SPORTS PINK

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United sneak past Seagulls

ASHLEY Young's deflected strike proved the slice of luck Manchester United needed to sneak past promoted Brighton.

Swashbuckling Manchester City headed into the weekend with an eight-point cushion at the top of the Premier League, and that meant Jose Mourinho's second-placed side could ill-afford to drop points at home to Chris Hughton's men.

Well-drilled Brighton threatened to cause an upset as they impressed on their first trip to Old Trafford since 1993, only for Young's strike to loop in via a cruel deflection off Lewis Dunk as United eked out a 1-0 win.

It took their run of victories at home against Premier League newcomers to 19 matches, getting an important sequence of games off to a winning start ahead of trips to Watford and Arsenal.

Brighton were unlucky to see their five-match unbeaten run come to an end after an assured display at Old Trafford, where they panicked the hosts with fleet-footed counter-attacks and dangerous crosses.

Their goalkeeper Mathew Ryan produced a fine double-save to keep United from grabbing the lead just before half-time, but the Australian could do nothing to prevent Young's second-half strike flying off Dunk and past him.

It was a welcome return to winning ways for United after their midweek Champions League loss in Basel, but Mourinho's pre-match call for his players to begin sharply fell on deaf ears.

Romelu Lukaku's wayward strike set the tone for a plodding first half against a confident Brighton side, with Anthony Knockaert's fizzing cross a fourth-minute shot across the bows before David De Gea comfortably stopped Pascal Gross' first-time attempt.

United were struggling to create clear-cut chances and Lukaku was unable to direct headers on target when the odd cross found the targetman. At the other end, Albion's figurehead Glenn Murray was inches away from connecting with a flick-on from close range.

As impressive as the Seagulls were, Ryan had to be his best to prevent them falling behind just before half-time.

Brighton's goalkeeper did superbly to get in the way of a point-blank Lukaku header, with the Australia international quickly reacting to prevent the follow-up as Paul Pogba attempted to slot home.

But the chance, and Mourinho's half-time team talk, did not jolt United into life as the second period started with Gross fooling Chris Smalling to send over a tantalising cross, before Davy Propper tried his luck from distance.

United continued to bumble along in attack as Lukaku tried a back-heel and Young smashed wide, with it taking a crunching Victor Lindelof challenge on Knockaert to get the fans roaring.

Mourinho's men refused to give the ball back despite the winger lying on the deck, with chants of "attack, attack, attack" echoing around Old Trafford.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic was introduced as United began to ratchet up the pressure and it bore fruit in the 66th minute.

From a disputed corner, left-back Young tried his luck from the edge of the box, with his effort taking a huge deflection off Dunk and looping into the top corner.

Lukaku tried to quickly extend United's lead but the visitors were not cowed and continued to attack, with Bruno's wonderful cross evading teammates, and Shane Duffy just unable to reach a ball into the box. Ibrahimovic got away an attempt as the home side secured victory.

SAINTS

A big chance for

Peter Howard



WHEN Sky Sports decided to put Everton's visit to St Mary's on its 'Super Sunday' television schedule, there was one reason why they chose it and presumably believed it was going to be super in some way.

It was all about the return of Ronald Koeman to former club Saints with his shiny new, expensively-assembled Everton, who were meant to be putting the frighteners on the top six this term.

But Koeman was sacked last month and his shiny new Everton have been rotten. Now, Saints vs Everton looks anything but super.

Everton have not won any of their last 14 Premier League away games, making it their worst run on the road in 20 years.

The Toffees also have one of the worst defences in the top flight, having let in 24 goals in 12 games. Only West Ham have conceded more.

On top of that, they have not kept a clean sheet since the opening day of the season and have conceded the most fouls in the division (157).

They've spent a huge amount of money but are now in serious trouble in the bottom half of the division.

And they have no manager, either.

At the time of writing David Unsworth remains in caretaker charge, even though Koeman was sacked a month ago now.

That's four weeks and an international break without managing to hire a new boss. Marco Silva has been one target for the job but they've seem to have been outpriced on that one by his current club Watford.

No doubt about it, Everton are in a crisis coming to St Mary's on Sunday and because of that they have handed Saints a big opportunity to avert their own crisis.

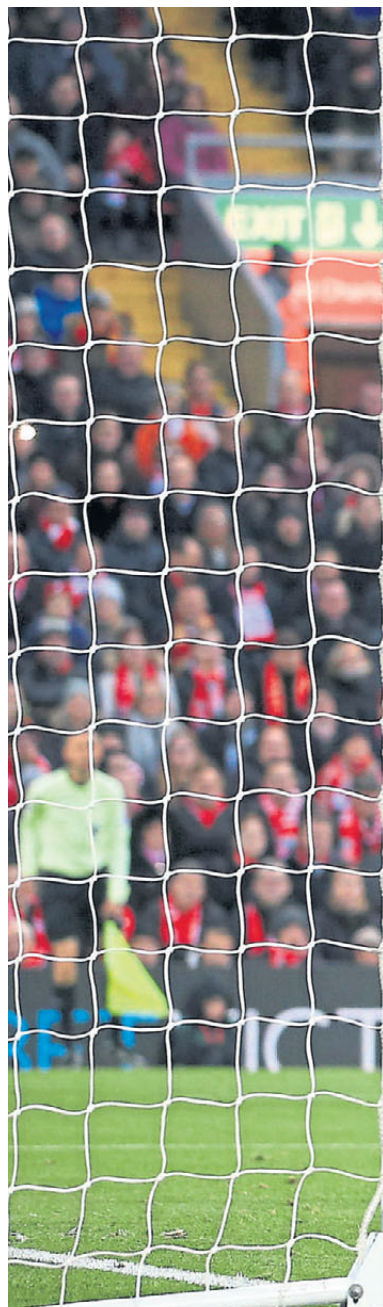
This is a Saints team who have scarcely scored and have won just four of their 16 home matches in 2017.

Their scoring issues have been well-documented and life under Mauricio Pellegrino is not going to plan at the moment at all.

Saints have not scored in their last two matches and failed to even get a shot on target against Liverpool last time out.

They have scored just six goals from open play in 12 matches (nine in total) and, to heap misery on it all, Saints have won just four of their last 20 games.

Of their 16 home matches this calendar year, they have not



Saints' Fraser Forster dives as Liverpool's Mohamed Salah scores his side's first goal last weekend.



scored in ten of them. It's little wonder the Saints supporters are turning on the new manager, the team and the board.

On top of all this, they are now on one of their hardest runs in Premier League history, too, with five of the top six still to play before the New Year.

But they face Everton here. And Everton are not good. Everton are

in a bad way.

Saints aren't in fantastic shape, either, but perhaps Everton's are worse problems and that can, potentially, be Saints' gain.

This game is as must-win as it gets for both sides.

A victory for Saints might snuff out the negativity a bit and build the momentum they've been missing for some time.

Boy, do they need it right now.

But they welcome Everton, who are terrible at the back.

If that's not an opportunity for confidence-bereft strikers to get firing, then what is?

Manolo Gabbiadini is Saints' top-scorer this term with three goals, while fellow striker Charlie Austin has one (from the penalty spot), while Shane Long hasn't



SAINTS



Saints or Toffees?



Everton's Ashley Williams stands dejected after being battered this week in the Europa League.



There hasn't been a lot for fans to cheer this season.



A rare win for Everton against Watford

scored since February.

Pellegrino has challenged himself to break this scoring problem and knows the Toffees game may well present his strikers with a chance.

"Finishing (in a game) is something that doesn't have a straight relationship with a training session, for example," he says.

"You can finish from Monday to

Sunday, but it's impossible to reproduce the same stress, anxiety they have during a competitive game.

"Sometimes it depends on confidence, our offence. As a manager our job is how can we create chances, arrive in the final third, how we can play triangles in wide areas, cross, cut-back, pick out team-mates.

"Finishing is something that's really difficult to translate from the training session to the game."

So how can this problem be corrected?

"Looking for new solutions, trying and trying, and suddenly, it's something that can happen," he explains.

"This is a nice challenge. We've got players who are very good

technically, and we have to improve our character, to be more clinical in this situation. It's mental too. It's a mix between preparation and mentality."

In Pellegrino's opening 13 games he's struggled to really stamp his identity on the team.

He admits that sometimes Saints are "a long, long" way from playing in his image.

"At some moments, yes - in some moments, no," he said, when asked if we're now seeing a 'Pellegrino team'.

"In some moments I'm happy; in some we've got a long, long process to improve.

"The players are not machines. They're human beings playing football, and sometimes they're confident, sometimes not.

"Sometimes the opponent is better than you. We always have to analyse the game with 22 players, not 11.

"The problem in Southampton is we're analysing just 11; in Everton they're analysing just 11, but we have to see one against the other, what the opponent did to be better than you, what you are doing to try to beat them."

The 46-year-old doesn't want to ask for patience over his management of the team, but wants people to understand that it's not an easy process to mould a team and likened it to going to the gym.

"I don't ask for patience, but I know how my job is," he said.

"It's a transition and a journey, and a long way.

"When you go to the gym, the first two months you don't see anything in the mirror, but you know you're doing exactly the right things.

"This is the same. You know you're doing the right things, but maybe in one year's time, two years' time, maybe your shape will be better, no?

"But you have to keep going to the gym."

Palace grab last-gasp winner

CRYSTAL Palace secured a dramatic and vital victory in their battle against relegation when Mamadou Sakho's stoppage-time goal earned them a 2-1 win over Stoke.

Visiting captain Ryan Shawcross had sent team-mate Xherdan Shaqiri's goal-bound cross wide from in front of goal shortly before Sakho tapped in to seal their comeback from a goal down following Ruben Loftus-Cheek's earlier finish.

It had been the impressive Shaqiri who had given 15th-placed Stoke the lead.

While Mark Hughes' team were unchanged from Monday's 2-2 draw at Brighton, Palace manager Roy Hodgson replaced goalkeeper Julian Speroni and central defender Scott Dann with Wayne Hennessey and James Tomkins.

They had been at fault for Oumar Niasse's equalising goal last week at home to Everton, when the result was also 2-2, but unlike last week when they scored in the opening minute, the hosts did not make an impressively fast start.

It took until the 24th minute for either side to threaten, and when Stoke did, when Shaqiri struck after been played through by Darren Fletcher, Hennessey made an important save after a deflection from Jeffrey Schlupp.

Palace's Luka Milivojevic swiftly responded when shooting narrowly wide of the left post from 25 yards as Lee Grant dived, and Shaqiri also found space on the edge of the opposite area to bend a left-footed effort wide of the right.

A chance fell to the hosts' James McArthur from directly in front of goal when they increased their tempo towards half-time and Loftus-Cheek found him with a cross from the right, but Grant rushed out to smother clear.

Sensing his side had lacked a focal point and could not afford to drop two further points, Hodgson replaced McArthur with Christian Benteke for the second half and moved Andros Townsend out to the left wing.

The striker had been rusty when returning from injury against Everton, and when their next chance came to him after a through-ball from Yohan Cabaye, from a narrow angle he struck first time into the side netting.

Any regret he felt at doing so was almost instantly intensified when, in the 53rd minute, Shaqiri then collected possession in midfield, ran to the edge of Palace's area, found space, and curled with his left foot into the bottom right corner.

If the home supporters quickly grew nervous at the prospect of another costly defeat, their team remained composed and within three minutes found an equalising goal.

Townsend sent an inswinging cross into the area from the left, and after it had evaded Stoke's defence en route to the back post, the unchallenged Loftus-Cheek calmly and routinely tapped in.

Palace appeared fortunate to be nearing a point after Shawcross inexplicably managed to turn Shaqiri's cross wide when almost on the goal-line and with it already appearing destined for the back of the net.

Benteke's lethargy in the final third meant they also looked unlikely goalscorers, but deep into stoppage time, Zaha's cross from the left found Cabaye in the area, and after the midfielder struck the post, stand-in captain tapped in for victory.

Even with the added three points Palace remain bottom of the Premier League, but amid a more forgiving run of fixtures, they have taken five points from their past four in the league.

Bottas takes pole

LEWIS Hamilton was beaten to pole position by his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas for Sunday's final race of the year in Abu Dhabi.

World champion Hamilton, who had appeared in ominous form for much of the weekend, was on course to steal pole in the closing moments only for a scruffy end to his last lap which included him running wide at the final corner.

Bottas finished the best part of two tenths of a second ahead of Hamilton under the floodlights of the Yas Marina circuit to secure his second pole in as many grands prix, while Sebastian Vettel will line up in third on tomorrow's grid.

Hamilton may have sealed his fourth championship at last month's Mexican Grand Prix, but the Mercedes driver vowed not to take his foot off the accelerator in the closing stages of his title-winning year.

He was not among the contenders at the last race in Brazil after he crashed out in qualifying, and while he



Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton.

recovered to finish fourth it was Vettel who ended his seven-race winless streak.

Here, Hamilton will have to pass his team-mate to seal the 10th victory of his championship-winning campaign.

Bottas has been second best to his team-mate for much of the year, but he set the fastest time during the first runs during the final phase of qualifying, and despite Hamilton's best efforts he was unable to usurp the Finn in the dying seconds.

Vettel, who overtook Bottas with a gutsy move at the opening corner at Interlagos a fortnight ago to set up his first win since July, was a distant third – some half-a-second slower than Bottas – while Daniel Ricciardo will line up in fourth for Red Bull.

"Things were getting better and better for me in practice and also in qualifying," Bottas said. "It was all under control, I managed to find time, and it just felt very good with the car."

SAINTS

Toffees' dismal

Simon Carter



EVERTON arrive at St Mary's this weekend in an even worse run of form than Saints.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at an incredible few months of upheaval for the Toffees ...

Summer 2018

After finishing seventh in his first season at Goodison Park, Ronald Koeman embarks on the biggest transfer spending spree in Everton history.

He splashed £25m on young Sunderland goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, and a similar amount on Burnley centre half Michael Keane.

Almost £24m was splashed on Ajax midfielder Davy Klaassen, and £7m on young Nigerian striker Henry Onyekuru, who was immediately loaned out to Anderlecht.

Spanish under-21 striker Sandro Ramirez cost £5.2m from Malaga, before Koeman produced a marquee signing – former Toffees midfielder Wayne Rooney returning from Manchester United on a free transfer.

Less high profile was Cuco Martina's free transfer arrival after he had been released by Saints.

But August brought two more big signings – a club record £45m swoop for Swansea playmaker Gylfi Sigurdsson and a £10m move for Hadjuk Split midfielder Nikola Vlasic.

Against all that, there was only one major departure.

But the loss of £75m striker Romelu Lukaku to Manchester United, and Everton's failure to sign a replacement for the Belgian, would come back to haunt Koeman – sooner than he could have expected.

August 12

Rooney's homecoming is a memorable one, scoring the only goal in the Premier League against visiting Stoke on the opening day.

August 19

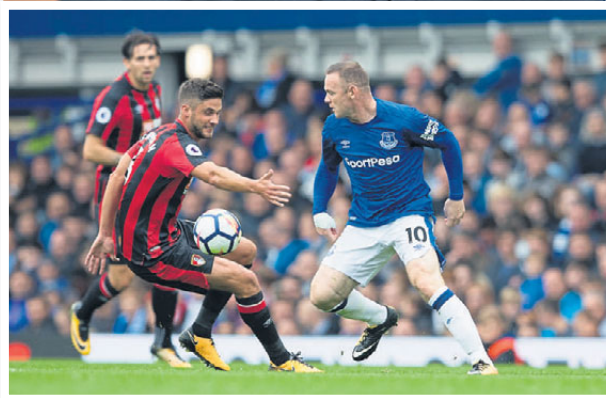
Raheem Sterling's 82nd minute leveller denies Everton victory at The Etihad after Rooney had opened the scoring on his return to Manchester. It remains the only league game City have failed to win this term.

September 9

After losing 2-0 at Chelsea, Everton crash 3-0 at home to Tottenham – Harry Kane scoring twice.

September 17

Former Saints boss Ronald Koeman was sacked by Everton just over a month ago.



Wayne Rooney, right, was Everton's summer marquee signing.

Three days after a 3-0 Europa League loss in Atlanta, Everton are thumped 4-0 at Old Trafford – three of the goals coming in the last seven minutes.

September 23

Oumar Niasse, the striker Koeman had sent on loan to Hull the previous season, rescues his manager by scoring twice as Everton come from behind to beat fellow strugglers Bournemouth 2-1 at Goodison Park.

September 28

More Europa League gloom as Everton can only manage a

2-2 home draw against Limassol. The visitors, 2-1 down and a man short due to a red card, equalise two minutes from time.

October 19

French club Lyon pile more pressure on Koeman with a 2-1 Europa League win at Goodison Park.

October 22

Rooney gives Everton the lead at home to Arsenal, but Idrissa Gueye is later sent off as the Gunners storm back to win 5-2.

Despite being 18th in the table and having won just twice in nine

games, Koeman told the media after the defeat: "I still believe I can change the whole situation."

October 23

Koeman is sacked, having paid the price for failing to bring in a striker to replace Lukaku. Arsenal's Olivier Giroud was the manager's preferred choice. As it turned out, he was his only choice. At the same time, three of his summer signings – No 10s Rooney, Klaassen and Sigurdsson – were all jockeying for their favourite position. It was already clear that Koeman's squad lacked proper balance.

October 25

Everton, under caretaker David Unsworth, are knocked out of the League Cup – losing 2-1 at Stamford Bridge.

October 29

A fourth successive league and cup loss, as first half goals from Jamie Vardy and Demarai Gray give new Leicester boss Claude Puel a 2-0 success.

November 2

Former Saints midfielder Mor-

SAINTS

timeline...

Morgan Schneiderlin, right, has been a 'liability' for Everton this season, according to Chris Sutton. Below – Romelu Lukaku's goals have not been replaced since he was sold to Manchester United.



gan Schneiderlin is sent off for the second time this season – he had previously been red carded late on at Manchester City – in a 3-0 Europa League loss in Lyon.

November 5

A rare seasonal highlight as Everton hit back from 0-2 down with 26 minutes left to beat Watford 3-2 at Goodison Park – Leigh-

on Baines netting a last minute penalty winner.

November 23

A month on from Koeman's sacking, and still no new boss. Everton, fielding a weakened side, are thrashed 5-1 at home by Atlanta in the Europa League. Unsworth gives fringe players Beni Baningime, Jonjoe Kenny,

Martina, Ramirez and goalkeeper Joel Robles a start, but the likes of Rooney, Keane, Klaassen and Ashley Williams all start as well.

Schneiderlin was on the bench, but that led BT Sport pundit Chris Sutton – the former Blackburn and Norwich striker – to admit: "I have to say I don't think it's a bad thing Schneiderlin not playing. He's been a liability this season."

Messi signs new deal – with £626 million buyout

LIONEL Messi wants to finish his career at Barcelona after signing a new deal that commits him through to the summer of 2021.

A renewal was agreed between player and club in July but it is only now that Messi has put pen to paper on the contract.

Announcing the deal, the LaLiga club added that the Argentina forward has had a £626 million buy-out clause inserted into his contract.

That means the 30-year-old is likely to end his playing days at the Nou Camp and not, as has been reported for some time, move to Manchester City.

"I am happy. We've been waiting for some time to complete the signing and it was done today," Messi told the club's official website.

"I'm happy to continue with the club which is my home, and I'm happy to continue here to spend my entire life, my home, which is where I always wanted to have my career."

"My dream was to finish my career at Barca and we are moving down that path."

Messi, who made his senior debut as a 16-year-old in a friendly against Porto, has eight LaLiga titles, four Champions League wins and five Copa del Rey successes among his list of honours with the Catalan giants.

He is regarded by some as the greatest player of all time and the signing of his new deal means his Barcelona dynasty can continue apace.

Messi arrived at Barcelona from Newell's Old Boys as a teenager in 2000 and made his first competitive appearance against Espanyol as a 17-year-old.

He scored the first of his club record 523 goals – they have come in just 602 matches – against Albacete in May 2005 and has since claimed the Ballon d'Or on five occasions, more than any other player.

On Friday, he was presented with his fourth Golden Shoe award for being the top scorer in Europe, while his 30 titles put him alongside team-mate Andres Iniesta as having the most success in club history.

"The objective is to continue to continue achieving things, fill the club's trophy cases, and keep making history at Barca," Messi said in a video on the club's Twitter page.

"We've been lucky enough to have won a great many things and I hope there will be more in the future."

Club president Josep Maria Bartomeu said: "Leo wants to keep playing at Barca, he wants to finish his career here."

"And there is a lot of excitement for the coming years."



Messi poses with his his fourth Golden Shoe award after receiving the latest for leading all of Europe's leagues in scoring last season.

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Silva lining as Newcastle hammered

MARCO Silva got the better of Rafael Benitez in spectacular style as Watford stormed to Premier League victory at Newcastle.

The Portuguese correctly identified the Magpies' Achilles heel – right-back DeAndre Yedlin's tendency to abandon his defensive duties to provide an extra attacking option – and his players exploited it in brutal fashion to cruise to a 3-0 win.

All three goals came down that wing, with Will Hughes converting Marin Zeegelaar's 19th-minute cross and Yedlin deflecting home another before the break before Andre Gray – a man Benitez wanted to sign during the summer – finished from close range from Richarlison's ball in.

The Hornets also passed up a series of other opportunities in front of a largely frustrated crowd of 52,188 as they condemned the Magpies to a fourth successive defeat and exposed the lack of genuine quality available to Benitez, whose hopes of reaching 20 points by the end of the year look forlorn.

With Tyneside once again gripped by takeover talk after Amanda Staveley's PCP Capital Partners tabled an initial offer, Benitez insisted in the run-up to the game that he would concentrate only on what he could control.

But the alarm bells were ringing long before the half-time whistle ended a torrid first 45 minutes for the home side, whose flaws were cruelly exposed by the rampant visitors.

They might have set a very different tone inside the opening three minutes had winger Jacob Murphy not been out-muscled by Christian Kabasele after running on to Dwight Gayle's flick, or had striker Joselu made meaningful contact with Murphy's inviting low cross.

Matt Ritchie drilled an 11th-minute shot into the side-netting, but, as Hornets wing-backs Kiko Femenia and Zeegelaar started to make an impression, the tide began to turn.

Keeper Rob Elliot had to make an important save to deny Richarlison on the break three minutes later after Tom Cleverley had played him in over the top, but the visitors went ahead with 19 minutes played as the Magpies were caught sleeping.

Zeegelaar was given time and space on the left to pick out Hughes inside the box and his finish was unerring.

Newcastle were laboured in their efforts for force their way back into the game and they were punished once again in stoppage time when Zeegelaar's cross clipped Yedlin and beat Elliot at his near post.

Watford would have been out of sight had Gray not fired wastefully wide after Zeegelaar had taken full advantage of Yedlin's absence to play the striker in behind Florian Lejeune within three minutes of the restart.

Benitez's men were in tatters as the back, with the visitors looking capable of adding to their tally at will as they marauded repeatedly down their left flank, and they struck once again with 62 minutes gone when Richarlison was allowed to pick out Gray at the far post and he made no mistake.

Benitez threw on Mikel Merino, Aleksandar Mitrovic and Ayoze Perez in a bid for redemption, but Gray was guilty of another glaring miss as time ran down.

SAINTS

'We're going in the

Simon Carter



SAINTS fans have been bombarding the Daily Echo website this week with comments on the state of their club following the 3-0 surrender at Anfield.

Here are just a small selection from the hundreds posted in the last few days. Log on now to daily-echo.co.uk to have your say.

Absolute nonsense performance on Saturday and frankly I just think the manager is taking the team the wrong direction.

At least for the past two seasons we've been solid. All we needed to do was sort out our conversion rate with a proper, decent, goal scoring striker.

So we fail to sign one and, instead of recognising that, we tear up the stability of the team.

Honestly - we stick with stability and defensive line ups v Newcastle and many other poor teams and then play a lightweight team against Liverpool away!!! How does that make any sense whatsoever.

What is clear is that we are creating even less chances than we were when we were solid!

So MP2, that experiment has failed. Ditch it and play a proper team of players who will at least fight for results and look interested in more than a training game.

On Saturday we effectively let Tadic take the place of Lemina and added to our line up of erratic light weight players with Boufal - these two clearly should not be on the pitch at the same time!!

So what do you get? Boufal with flashes of skill but always giving away cheap free kicks in dangerous areas or giving the ball away, and Tadic doing like wise. Meanwhile Redmond has pace but zero attacking, goal scoring instinct whatsoever.

And, at the back, Maya is dropped for absolutely no reason (Hoedt is decent though to be fair).

So as far as I can see it we've stepped backwards and MP2 seems unable to see that an away game at Liverpool requires a solid team performance with an aim to counter attack, not playing Tadic and Boufal in a power puff midfield.

Maybe attempt that at home, but frankly I wouldn't anyway.

If you lose Lemina replace him with someone who will put his foot in and who is slightly dependable.

The lack of passion is also extremely concerning.

When Austin came on he didn't look angry at being left out, he



Dusan Tadic, main picture, in action against Sadio Mane last weekend. Above - some fans believe Les Reed has left Mauricio Pellegrino too short up front.

looked far too relaxed, as do all the other players.

It's a joke. On a positive side, at least all the fans are finally united in being miserable, because there are very few positives to be found.

SaintJD

Yes we know that this is serious but we have to try and turn it around.

Until recently we would have all expected three points at home against a team near the bottom and in free fall, but there is now a sense of doom and expectancy of failure.

We have to push that aside and lift the lads on Sunday and try and drag them over the line. Hopefully one of them can find a goal from somewhere, maybe Vir-

gil up for a JWP free kick?

We need a mammoth effort at the back too because flapper has to be protected, we have to play as though we don't have anyone between the sticks, proper bodies on the line stuff.

It's too early in the season for the over used 'must win game' but it sure is an important one!

Seedhouse the Unrepentant

SAINTS



wrong direction'



Can Nathan Redmond, right, Sofiane Boufal, top right, and Dusan Tadic all play in the same starting XI – as they did at Anfield last Saturday?

Agree; in the past when threatened with relegation, Saints teams have always put up a proper fight and played with real determination, throwing everything at it, which left the fans proud.

This isn't yet a relegation battle, but if the team don't get their finger out, it pretty soon could be, and they seem to be sailing into it, as if they don't expect it to hap-

pen, and that it will all be ok.

That isn't the right attitude.

Really the only thing now, is for the crowd to get behind them as the 12th man, in "Dell style" relegation fighting mode, because there seems to be little else left in options now, to turn this thing around.

[Positively4thStreet](#)

There has to come a point where the players and fans wake up to the need for a siege mentality, and perhaps the fact we are playing some big games in the next few weeks might do that.

A couple of battling performances against the big clubs with our backs against the wall might kick us into life.

Lemina's return is important

though and we just need that bit of luck in MP2 being forced to bring in a player who turns things round.

I seem to remember Puel struggling badly until Charlie sprung to life in the Europa League and I'm hoping that he and perhaps one or two others will kick a few players who are taking it easy out of the team.

Also, while I've been far from impressed by MP2 so far and can't find many positives as yet, I also remember that MoPo was about to get the sack at Spurs after starting very badly.

Now, personally I think comparing MP2 to MoPo is a massive stretch based on what I've seen so far (Silva is a better comparison to MoPo but still not sure if he's the next MoPo or next Martinez) but I remember it took MoPo a good season before Spurs started to buy into his ways.

[SaintJD](#)

We've been paying through the nose now for 2 seasons of zero grade entertainment.

The squad has been seriously weakened and the Board have been dismally slow to react/invest.

Beats me why we now have over cover at CH position and b**** all else everywhere else ...because one man has too much influence.

[Redsnapper](#)

The only thing that can be changed at the moment is the tactics and/or Manager & Coaches. Problem is Les Reed's influence on the rest of the board / new owner as he is responsible for all things football. Will he accept he made another poor appointment or stick with MP until Jan to give him reinforcements?

I fear he will then sell our best defenders and waste the money on mediocre players taking us further backwards.

[In That Number](#)

There's no doubting that Sunday's match against Everton has become crucial.

If we don't win we will be in serious trouble. I know MP is not flavour of the month and I doubt if he is a Premier League manager, but he has been dealt a terrible hand by Les Reed in the forward area. We strengthened in defence and midfield but not in attack. I think we need to hear from Mr GAO now about his aims for the Saints. Does he have any ambition for us. If he does then it may be time to get rid of Les and Ralph and bring in a Cortese type Chairman who will take this club forward.

Come on you Saints on Sunday. Let's get the 3 points.

[M Clarke](#)

Megson makes case

GARY Megson made his case for a longer stay as West Brom manager as his resilient side held Tottenham to a 1-1 draw at Wembley.

Salomon Rondon gave the visitors a surprise early lead at the national stadium and while Harry Kane equalised 16 minutes from time, West Brom stood firm for a gutsy draw.

The Baggies fans chanted Megson's name here and it was they who were cheering at the final whistle, having watched their team end a run of four consecutive defeats.

Megson insists he has not considered becoming the club's permanent successor to Tony Pulis but with home games against Newcastle and Crystal Palace up next, he may be able to promote his cause even further.

Tottenham's ruthlessness against the league's lower sides underpinned their title challenge last term but they have now dropped points at home to Burnley, Swansea and West Brom.

Mauricio Pochettino's men had 73 per cent possession and 20 shots to their opponents' five but in truth they created too few clear-cut chances.

They now trail Manchester City by 10 points, with the league leaders still to face Huddersfield on Sunday. West Brom moved out of the relegation zone and into 17th.

Danny Rose was again left out of the Spurs squad, while Megson handed 19-year-old Sam Field his third Premier League start of the season in midfield.

Tottenham arrived on the back of beating Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League but it has been the more hum-drum fixtures like these that have caused them problems at Wembley, with the atmosphere flat and the players lacking their usual zip and aggression.

West Brom needed only four minutes to capitalise as Dele Alli was dispossessed by Jake Livermore, who quickly freed Rondon in behind.

Davinson Sanchez looked to have marshalled his opponent away from goal but Rondon persisted, his dribbling shot catching Hugo Lloris by surprise and rolling inside the far post.

From there it was all Spurs but they struggled to break down the West Brom wall. At one point all eleven green shirts were inside their own penalty area to defend a corner.

Kane and Son Heung-min both went close with long-range efforts while Son fired across the face of goal, only for Kane and Alli to stop their runs at just the wrong moment.

But Ben Foster was hardly troubled before the break except by the Tottenham fans' frustrations as he dithered for time at every possible moment.

The second half brought more of the same, Spurs edging forward, West Brom camped in their own half although Matt Phillips shot just wide on a rare counter-attack.

Pochettino decided he was over-stacked in defence and replaced Jan Vertonghen with Fernando Llorente while Moussa Dembele came on for Harry Winks.

His side huffed and puffed for another 15 minutes before finally pulling level. Alli dinked a cross into the near post, where Kane nipped in to poke home his ninth league goal of the season.

With 16 minutes left, Spurs now fancied a winner and they nearly had it when Kane and Son both looked set to meet Kieran Trippier's cross but the ball span over the bar.

Foster spilled a Kane shot but gathered just ahead of the onrushing Alli and the best chance actually fell to West Brom, only for Rondon to feather wide from close range when he should have found the net.

PREMIER LEAGUE



Disallowed try query

TONGA are to question World Cup officials about Andrew Fifita's disallowed try in the dying moments of their dramatic 20-18 semi-final defeat by England.

The Tongans had fought back from 20-0 down with three converted tries in the last seven minutes to set up a nail-biting finish and thought they had snatched a sensational victory when Fifita went on a charge for the line with just seconds left on the clock.

The ball came free in England second rower Elliott Whitehead's tackle and, although Fifita claimed a try after regathering the ball, referee Matt Cecchin ruled a knock-on and promptly blew the final whistle.

England coach Wayne Bennett insisted it was not a try and claimed the referee ought to have given England a penalty moments earlier for a ball strip on winger Jermaine McGillvary.

"The ref allowed play on and exactly the same thing happened to Fifita," Bennett said. "He got the ball stripped off him one on one. In both cases he should have given a penalty but he did neither. It comes under the category of a loose carry."

Tonga coach Kristian Woolf questioned the decision not to refer the call to video referee Ben Thaler and said he would be bringing up the incident with tournament officials.

"I don't know if it's a try or not because I haven't seen it again but I would have thought under those circumstances, when the game is on the line, you have a look at it, especially when we looked at other tries 10 or 12 times," Woolf said.

"That really surprises me. I just can't get my head around that."

"We've got to ask the question. It doesn't matter now because the game is done but you've got to ask the question for your own piece of mind."

Bennett claimed he was never worried over the outcome, however, and was delighted with his side's defence.

"I wasn't nervous," he said. "The time clock was on our side."

"It was a quality game of football. It was a sell-out crowd and the atmosphere was great."

Leeds boss – we're getting back to our best

LEEDS boss Thomas Christiansen claims his side are getting back to their best after a rare win at Oakwell.

After a brilliant start to life in the Elland Road dugout, the 44-year-old's position had come under scrutiny after a run of eight defeats from 10 games and a visit to Oakwell, where United have won just once in 20 years, would not have been the most appealing prospect.

But they put in a performance for their boss and first-half goals from Samuel Saiz and Ezgjan Alioski wrapped up a convincing three points with a 2-0 win which puts them back on the tail of the

play-off pack.

"For me it is another three points, for the players it is important to build on the confidence," Christiansen said.

"The team is back, we are hoping the results will improve now. I am very pleased for the players to take three points."

"We had two very difficult games against teams who have been in the Premier League (Middlesbrough and Wolves) and then a derby where we have not done well."

"It has been a very good week."

"That was our mission, to come here and try and take the three

points, we did the good performance and this is what we needed to try and be positive going forward."

"We made a good start because we did the things we had to do. We had to equalise their intensity and then our quality came through."

"The two goals were very important, to go to half-time with the score like that."

Saiz opened the scoring in the 23rd minute when he was allowed unlimited space and advanced unchallenged before unleashing an effort that went through the hands of goalkeeper Adam Davies, who might have expected

to save it.

And it was 2-0 in first-half stoppage time when Alioski bent a fine curling effort into the bottom corner from the edge of the area to score for the fourth game in a row.

Barnsley had to wait until the 77th minute to register their first shot on target and never looked like getting back into it as their week ended with a second successive home defeat.

Boss Paul Heckingbottom was also unhappy with the way Leeds celebrated their second goal.

He said: "Someone needs to have a bit more class about themselves when they score a goal."

Ex-Saint Crouch's new Premier League record

Echo Reporter

PETER Crouch made a record 143rd Premier League appearance as a substitute when he came on for Stoke against Brighton on Monday night.

The former Saints striker's 73rd-minute introduction took him past ex-Newcastle striker Shola Ameobi's tally, set between 2000 and 2015.

And Crouch has been effective in the role, averaging a goal every 162 minutes compared to every 271 minutes as a starter.

The former England striker, now 36, has shifted towards an impact substitute role in recent years - eight of his 18 league goals over the last four seasons have come after stepping off the bench.

This season he is yet to start a game, making nine substitute appearances and scoring three goals in 170 minutes.

One of those was the winner against Saints in late September in the Potteries.

That already equals his previous best tally, set in 16 substitute appearances in the 2014-15 season.

In all, nearly a third (32.6) of Crouch's Premier League appearances in his career have come as a substitute.

That accounts for around nine per cent of his playing time but more than 14 per cent of his goals - 15 out of 107.

Nine of his top flight sub outings came for Saints in the 2004/05 season. He was mainly used as a sub by Steve Wigley before becoming a regular starter as soon as Harry Redknapp arrived at St Mary's.



Stoke City's Peter Crouch celebrates scoring the winner against Saints in September.

Crouch has almost matched noted super-sub Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's tally of goals from the bench - the Norwegian managed 17 for Manchester United, including four in one memorable appearance after coming on against Nottingham Forest in February

1999.

Solskjaer is alongside former Arsenal and Portsmouth man Kanu on 17 but the top-scoring substitute in Premier League history is another active player - Jermain Defoe, with an impressive 23 goals.

The Bournemouth striker has added four substitute appearances to his tally this season and is just eight behind Crouch's record on that front.

His only goal this term came as a starter, though, against Brighton in September.

PREMIER LEAGUE



Stern words for Europa players

Echo
reporter

DAVID Unsworth has told Everton's Europa League flops they have played their way out of his plans.

Caretaker manager Unsworth made nine changes for his side's midweek dead rubber against Atalanta and saw them hammered 5-1 in front of a paltry home crowd.

The 44-year-old's tenure could be entering its final stretch at Southampton on Sunday, after majority shareholder Farhad Moshiri revealed an appointment was "close", but that did not stop him laying down the law to his under-performing squad men.

"The players know exactly how I feel, they know I feel they let the club down," he said.

"There are numerous players who didn't play (against Atalanta) who are available to come back in. I asked the players to give me a problem, to stay in the team with an individual performance, and they've made my job easy in that respect."

Everton's midweek captain Wayne Rooney could be one of those returning to bench duty, with Ashley Williams, Cuco Martina, Sandro Ramirez, Davy Klaassen and Kevin Mirallas also vulnerable.

Whoever does make the side at St Mary's will take the field with a clear message from Unsworth ringing in their ears.

He has presided over just one win in six games and says anything short of three points would be a short-changing the club's supporters.

"I am really looking forward to it. It will be a tough game because



Everton caretaker manager David Unsworth during the Premier League match at Selhurst Park.

Southampton are a good team, they pass the ball really well," he said.

"But we must see a reaction now. Our players must stand up and have the courage to go and get a result on Sunday.

"I think we always owe it to the Everton fans to perform. Our

players know that. They know my feelings and sentiments towards the great Everton fans.

"I think they do owe them a performance and I think, and know, they owe them a win."

The Toffees will be without Oumar Niass - the first Premier League player to be suspended for

simulation - and midfielder Tom Davies, who has collected five bookings.

Phil Jagielka (back) and Morgan Schneiderlin (toe) are expected to get the all clear, but Mason Holgate's groin complaint will keep him out for another game at least.

Scots' record Wallaby win

LAST-minute call-up Byron McGuigan scored a try double as Scotland ran up a record 53-24 win over 14-man Australia at Murrayfield.

The Sale wing was handed a late starting slot when Stuart Hogg pulled up with a hip injury in the warm-up.

But the loss of the British and Irish Lion did not slow Gregor Townsend's impressive Dark Blues down as they rounded off their autumn series with eight tries and their biggest ever points total against one of the southern hemisphere's big three.

McGuigan scored twice on his first Test start while Ali Price, Sean Maitland, Jonny Gray, Huw Jones, captain John Barclay and Stuart McNally also crossed over.

The Wallabies had hit back with Tevita Kuridrani's double and touchdowns from Kurtley Beale and Lopeti Timani but, once they had prop Sekope Kepu sent off for a dangerous barge on Hamish Watson, the Scots simply ran the legs off Michael Cheika's team.

Some ropy handling cost the Scots the chance to make an immediate mark but they had McGuigan's football skills to thank for the opening try on 17 minutes.

Having fallen behind to a Finn Russell penalty, the tourists were struggling to cope with the hosts' dynamism and intensity.

And when Bernard Foley threw a loose pass inside, McGuigan made him pay.

The Namibia-born 28-year-old produced an exquisite first touch as he booted the ball towards the goal-line.

An awkward bounce almost foiled him but McGuigan kept his nerve and even dribbled round Reece Hodge on the line before touching down.

Australia got the break they were looking for when referee Pascal Gauzere ruled Sean McMahon's knock-on had come off his head. When the Scots hesitated, their visitors did not hang about, with Foley slotting Kuridrani through to score on 34 minutes with a cute grubber before adding the conversion.

The same pair combined three minutes later as Foley made the most of Tommy Seymour's spill before popping off to Kuridrani to finish. This time Foley's conversion was off-target.

But there was further drama in the final minute of the half as Kepu saw red for an horrendous shoulder barge into Watson's face.

With the Wallabies still trying to re-adjust, Price pounced, wriggling into space before diving over to put the Scots back in command at the break, with Russell adding the extras.

The tries continued to flow back and forth as they action resumed, with first Beale squeezing over for Australia three minutes in before Maitland responded almost immediately with a stunning 40-yard solo effort.

But the Australians were tiring quickly and found themselves opened up again on 49 minutes as Gray was allowed to canter over from close range. Russell's conversion put them 12 points ahead and from then on there was no catching them.

Bideford break their duck against Winchester

WINCHESTER CITY 2 BIDEFORD 3

BIDEFORD achieved their first ever win against Winchester when they won 3-2 at Winchester's Abbots Barton ground.

Winchester made one change to the starting line-up from Tuesday with fit-again Liam Gilbert replacing player/manager Craig Davis.

Early on Andy Jenkinson for

the home team had an effort narrowly wide.

At the other end Ben Seymour set up Ryan Turner but thankfully for Winchester his effort was off-target.

Craig Duff forced a good save from Ryan Price while at the other end Liam Gilbert forced Steve Oliver into action.

In the 32nd minute Bideford took the lead when Seymour hit a low shot into the opposite corner.

Eight minutes later however, Winchester drew level when Olly Bailey forced visiting defender Ian Sampon to put the ball past his own goalkeeper.

Disappointingly though a minute into the second half Duff regained the lead for Bideford.

Winchester had an excellent chance to score but Steve Oliver made a good save from Jamie Barron's spot kick after Rob Carr was fouled.

Winchester did however draw level in the 79th minute when Bailey's pace put him clear of the Bideford defence and he made no mistake.

Once again though Winchester's joy at drawing level was quickly evaporated when Duff scored his second goal of the game to clinch the match for his team with Winchester unable to score an equaliser for the third time.

England unbeaten

ENGLAND emerged comfortable 48-14 winners over Samoa at Twickenham to complete a clean sweep of victories from their autumn series, but they toiled for long spells against the Islanders.

Eddie Jones' men entered the seventh meeting between the teams as overwhelming 1/200 favourites and while they were never in danger of losing from the moment Mike Brown crossed after 101 seconds, it was a far from vintage display.

For 31 minutes they failed to add to the 22-7 lead they had built by the half-hour mark and when Elliot Daly touched down to eventually propel them out of the barren spell, Samoa's resistance had been broken.

Alex Lozowski, Charlie Ewels, Henry Slade and Semesa Rokoduguni also ran in tries as England recorded a 22nd victory from 23 Tests under Jones, while fly-half and co-captain George Ford kicked 13 points.

Nine changes had been made to the team that



England coach Eddie Jones.

thumped Australia 30-6 and their final outing this year fell below that standard, although there was no denying the ambition that compelled them to repeatedly turn down shots at goal.

Financially-stricken Samoa have not won any of their seven Tests this year, but there was much to applaud at Twickenham and it was only in the closing stages that they fell apart.

It looked ominous, however, when Brown opened the scoring in the second minute and although Samoa had produced some positive early moments, they were unpicked for a second time when Tim Nanai-Williams dropped a high ball enabling Lozowski to cross.

A botched restart by Ewels coupled with some lazy defence, most notably by Joe Launchbury, saw flanker Piula Faasalele cross under the posts and the Islanders were lifted when ferocious tackle on Lozowski and

Continued opposite

CHERRIES

Cherries lucky to

Echo
reporter

SWANSEA stopped the rot with a 0-0 draw against Bournemouth but failed to ease the pressure on head coach Paul Clement.

Four successive defeats had dropped Swansea into the Premier League relegation zone and left Clement facing awkward questions over his future.

Those questions might still remain after Bournemouth kept a third successive clean sheet, but at least Clement saw an improved Swansea performance which should have brought all three points.

Swansea still laboured to create chances but there was a greater intensity about their play than in recent weeks.

And Clement must have felt his side had won it when substitute Leroy Fer burst through the Cherries' defence seven minutes from time.

Fer forced Asmir Begovic into his first save of the game and then placed the rebound wide when it seemed simpler to score.

Swansea also had a penalty appeal turned down late when Adam Smith appeared to take away the standing foot of Tammy Abraham, although contact might just have been outside the area.

Clement lost his captain Federico Fernandez before kick-off as the centre-half had returned to Argentina following the death of his father.

Wilfried Bony – making his first start in the league since the end of September – wore the armband with England striker Abraham deemed only fit enough to begin on the bench.

There was a lively start as Joshua King shrugged off the challenge of Roque Mesa and crossed for Marc Pugh to produce a tame effort.

Swansea's instant response was for Jordan Ayew to wriggle free and strike the crossbar from a tight angle.

Bournemouth's calmness played on the nerves of the home crowd, but the Cherries failed to manufacture anything of note apart from Andrew Surman's 25-yarder.

Swansea made little headway until Tom Carroll created two opportunities in the space of 60 seconds with 10 minutes of the first half remaining.

Carroll spied space inside full-back Adam Smith for the stretching Martin Olsson to fire over and, with Bournemouth gifting back possession immediately, Renato Sanches found the side netting from just inside the penalty

SWANSEA 0
CHERRIES 0



Swansea's Wilfried Bony (left) and AFC Bournemouth's Nathan Ake battle for the ball.

area.

King, Bournemouth's most dangerous player, shot straight at Lukasz Fabianski from Pugh's pull-back before a moment of controversy.

Sanches won a ball which had ballooned into the air and referee

Stuart Attwell adjudged Ayew to have shoved Nathan Ake before Bony smashed home off the underside of the crossbar.

Swansea improved as the first half wore on with an increasing understanding between Bony and Sanches offering them real

hope.

Sanches volleyed over after Bony had scrapped for a cross and further good work by the pair ended with Ake bravely blocking Ayew's goalbound attempt.

Jordon Ibe tested Fabianski at

CHERRIES



escape with point

Swansea City's Wilfried Bony scores before having the goal disallowed.



Wilfried Bony (left) and AFC Bournemouth's Nathan Ake.



Tempers flare between both teams.



the base of his post as tempers threatened to boil over.

Ibe and Ki Sung-yueng were booked after a spot of shoving which saw referee Attwell caught in the middle before Charlie Daniels almost produced a Bournemouth sucker punch.

From opposite page

Danny Care left the backs doubled over in pain.

Samoa looked comfortable when play was ragged but England introduced some structure through two big scrums and a series of forward drives to profit through Ewels crashing over.

Launchbury trudged off with a shoulder injury and Courtney Lawes came on, the prelude to a brief period of Samoan resurgence assisted by a gift of an intercept by Chris Robshaw.

Twice Care was unable to keep hold of final passes as the line beckoned and England were forced into another reshuffle when Jonny May departed concussed, bringing on Rokoduguni in his place.

It was on the other wing where Samoa cracked for a fourth time, half-backs Ben Youngs and Ford combining to send Daly over.

Slade was the next to cross after running on to a flat pass from Youngs as England used their set piece to good effect once more, but Samoa refused to wave the white flag and were rewarded when lock Chris Vui scored in the left corner.

England had the final say, however, when the superb Daly took Brown's pass and switched on the afterburners to evade five would-be tacklers and finish under the posts before Rokoduguni completed the rout in injury-time.

Eddie Jones feels England eased off the throttle after making a fast start against Samoa.

England ended the autumn internationals with a third straight win, scoring seven tries in a 48-14 success at Twickenham.

But Jones feels there were too many errors from his side.

"It was a bit of a muddling performance from us," he told Sky Sports.

"Started well, maybe got a little bit seduced by the perceived easiness of the game. We stopped doing the small things well, we got pulled back and then finished the game off.

"We stopped doing the small things well enough. It cost us a few points out there."

England led 22-7 at half-time through tries from Mike Brown, Alex Lozowski and Charlie Ewels, with Piula Faasalele responding for Samoa, who also scored through Chris Vui.

Elliot Daly scored the hosts' fourth and sixth tries, Henry Slade added a fifth and Semesa Rokoduguni a seventh. George Ford finished with 13 points.

Jones added: "We don't have the consistency of doing the small things right but we've got two years to get that right."

NON LEAGUE



All change at Folland

FOLLAND Sports have filled two vacancies at the club – and created another in the process.

Barry Morse, chairman of the overall Folland Sports & Social Club, has agreed to take over as football chair for the time being following Roy Kingdon's mid-October departure.

Meanwhile the role of first-team manager has gone to Brad Harthill who stepped in on a caretaker basis when Bjay Green and his assistant Richard Elmes resigned a week before Kingdon's exit.

Harthill formerly player-managed Follands Reserves and the knock-on effect is that club are now looking for someone to run their Wyvern League (East) side.

Jason Simmonds, who had been assisting Harthill, has taken on more of a commercial manager's role, but the King's Avenue club – currently bottom of the Sydenhams Division One – are in need of plenty more help behind the scenes.

Follands' Garry Budden said: "I'm club secretary but I can't go to away games with our first team because the reserves need someone to do the gate and tea hut."

"We could do with some extra matchday helpers too."

Follands, meanwhile, are due to open talks with landlords GE Aviation about the future of the club.



Earlier this year they were advised Folland Park could be made available for development sometime after the end of the 2017/18 season, subject to planning approval.

Budden said: "At the moment we've got a rolling lease and we've had assurances from the aircraft factory that if anything happens at our ground, they are honour-bound to provide us with a new facility."

"If there's no development here, they will continue to renew the lease."

"But if they sell the ground and decide to build on it, they will provide us with a new one."

The club was established in 1938 by workers of the aircraft factory in Hamble-le-Rice and was originally known as Folland Aircraft.

During World War II players from Portsmouth and Southampton worked in the factory and played for the club.

The Planemakers have undergone several name changes since then, becoming Folland Sports, Aerostructures S&S and Hamble ASSC.

In 2011 the club adopted the name GE Hamble after the parent company became GE Aviation Systems and, at the end of 2012/13, they reverted back to Folland Sports.

'They could build a statue of James!'

Wendy Gee



HAMBLE Club boss Ben Kneller couldn't help but smile when he found out James Thomson had scored in Gosport Borough's first league win of the season.

Having left the Monks to sign for Borough last Friday, Thomson became an instant hero 24 hours later when he headed in the only goal of the game in the Evo-Stik South Premier basement battle with Dunstable Town.

Kneller, who went to school with the former Sholing marksman, said: "I did laugh."

"If Gosport stay up by three points, they'll be building a statue of him outside the ground!"

"James is very confident, he's a good finisher and he scores in big games."

"When we came off the pitch at Portland last week, we checked the Gosport result, saw they'd won 1-0 and waited for the scorer to come through."

"It had to be Thommo! We were really pleased for him."

Ironically Thomson was not first choice for Hamble Club, who play two leagues down from Gosport in the Sydenhams Premier. He had scored five goals for the Monks in nine outings this term.

"Thommo's not had much of a look-in with Nathan Lynch and Doug Rowe playing well," Kneller explained.

"He got a bit frustrated and we had a different view on things."

"I know (Gosport boss) Mick Catlin through Rory Williams at Havant and Mick asked me what Thommo was like."

"It turned out to be a really good week for him. It was his birthday on the Tuesday and he scored on the Saturday. Thommo's done alright."

Thomson's departure has coincided with the arrival of a bright, new striker at 'The Abbey.'

Despite strong competition, the Monks landed the signature of River Smith from Ringwood Town.

With 23 goals in the bag from 18 starts for the Sydenhams One outfit, Smith was bound to catch the eye.

"Ringwood had ten seven-day notices of approach for him, including us," said Kneller.



River Smith signed from Ringwood Town.

Picture: Hamble Club.

The reason Hamble Club succeeded where others failed was that Smith knows their assistant manager Chris Castle, brother of Sholing defender Pete.

"River comes from Bournemouth where he played for a side managed by Pete and Chris's older brother Fernando," Kneller explained. "He played for Ferd in the Bournemouth League."

"I've got to say what a nice lad

he is, but I think he's got a bit of shock coming because a few of our lads are quite boisterous!" he laughed.

Hamble, though, are not the only club to have landed Smith's signature.

He has also signed forms for Evo-Stik South Premier giants Weymouth, who sent him on as a sub in Tuesday's 1-0 BigFreeBet.com Challenge Cup win at AFC

Totton.

"He's on Weymouth's radar as well and we've said he's more than welcome to train with them," said Kneller. "If Weymouth come calling, he can go as and when."

"River's quite quick and he knows where the net is."

"He came on against Fareham and got his first goal for us and made it 2-0 (in a 2-2 draw) at Portland last week."

Got a story for us? Email echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

NON LEAGUE



FC HALIFAX TOWN 3 EASTLEIGH 3

Keepers sent off in six-goal thriller

Wendy Gee

EASTLEIGH were pegged back for a 3-3 draw in an extraordinary spectacle at FC Halifax Town this afternoon.

A truly bizarre game at The Shay saw both goalkeepers sent off and the Spitfires lose their grip on 2-0 and 3-1 leads, keeping them static in 18th in the Vanarama National League.

Eastleigh went two up inside 21 minutes – a real shock to the Shaymen who had dominated the opening exchanges.

Spitfires' keeper Ross Flitney – recalled for the injured Graham Stack – made a series of saves to keep the fast-starting West Yorkshire hosts at bay – the pick of them coming when he tipped Jake Hibbs' free-kick onto the bar at full stretch.

On the one occasion Flitney was beaten, centre-back Andrew Boyce made a crucial goalline clearance from Scott McManus.

Against the odds, it was Eastleigh who seized the lead with 15 minutes gone – the ball going into the net direct from a Sam Matthews corner.

Controversy followed as McManus went through on goal and went down under a challenge from Flitney. Chants of "off, off, off" filled The Shay, but the Eastleigh stopper was shown a yellow card rather than a red.

The Spitfires suffered a 19th-minute setback when manager Richard Hill was forced into an early change – top scorer Ben Williamson bowing out with what looked to be a hamstring problem and replaced by Chris Zebroski.

Zebroski made himself instantly at home, getting the last touch for 2-0 on 22 minutes after the towering figure of Boyce had flicked another Eastleigh corner into the danger zone.

With the game ebbing and flowing, Zebroski sent an effort narrowly wide before Halifax were awarded a 37th-minute penalty after Adam Morgan and Danny Clarke had gone down in the box in quick succession.

McManus stepped up to the spot and beat the outstanding Flitney from 12 yards.

Half-time: FC Halifax Town 1 Eastleigh 2.



Eastleigh's Andrew Boyce

It was all Eastleigh at the start of the second period, but this time Halifax goalkeeper Sam Johnson took centre stage.

With 50 minutes gone, Matthews cut inside and unleashed a curling shot which was well kept out by the Shaymen's stopper, who then thwarted Paul McCallum's close-range follow-up.

But Johnson, already on a booking, quickly turned from hero to villain when he brought down Zebroski on the left of the area. After a brief pause, he was shown a second yellow followed by a red, reducing the Shaymen to ten men.

Sub goalkeeper Tom Nicholson replaced him, but boos rang out from the home crowd as the attacking threat of Morgan was sacrificed.

It wasn't long before Nicholson was picking the ball out of the back of the net – beaten by Simon Heslop's first goal in an Eastleigh shirt.

The on-loan York City midfielder expertly tucked away a Zebroski cross following more fine work

from the terrier-like Matthews to make it 3-1 with 63 minutes gone.

It should have been done at dusted for the Spitfires at that point, but a crazy game had more twists and turns to come.

Some terrific defending by Eastleigh right-back Gavin Hoyte temporarily kept Halifax out, but the game took a double turn for the worse for the Spitfires on 73 minutes when they conceded a goal and had Flitney sent off.

McManus was the creator, playing the ball across for Tom Denton to bury for 3-2.

There was a scuffle in the aftermath with Flitney in amongst it and, to Eastleigh's dismay, the experienced stopper was shown a second yellow.

Unlike Halifax, the Spitfires did not have a sub 'keeper on the bench, leaving outfielder Boyce to don the gloves. Sub Ayo Obileye filled the defensive void, coming on at the expense of midfield livewire Matthews.

Boyce excelled himself with a superb save with his feet to protect the Spitfires' slender lead.

But Halifax launched wave after wave of attack and the Eastleigh dam was breached on 90 minutes as Daniel Batty dramatically hauled Halifax back on terms. A minimum of five minutes' stoppage time was added and still the action kept coming with Hibbs firing narrowly wide for the Shaymen before getting back to deny Mark Yeates at the other end.

● Winchester City twice came back from behind through an own goal and Oli Bailey, but eventually lost 3-2 to Bideford AFC in the Evo-Stik South West.

AFC Totton's game kicked off an hour late because Evesham United's coach broke down en route to the Testwood Stadium.

At the time of The Pink going to press, Evesham's Ashley Williams had put his side ahead on 13 minutes and then been sent off for a second bookable offence.

Ex-Eastleigh youngster Jack Masterton made it 1-1 at the break with a beautifully struck free-kick.

'Too much respect'

LOUIS Langdown felt AFC Totton paid higher league visitors Weymouth "too much respect" in the first half of Tuesday's BigFreeBet.com Challenge Cup tie.

Despite a massive improvement after the break, the Stags exited the competition after being undone by a brilliant chip from the edge of the box by Pat Suraci at the Total Branding Community Stadium.

Tony Lee – hat-trick hero of last Saturday's 3-1 league win at Shortwood – had the pick of Totton's second-half chances, but they did everything but score.

"We gave them a bit too much respect first half so we told them to go back out and boss the game – and we did," said Langdown. "We



Tony Lee

passed the ball and got in their faces. We left losing, but happy that we'd shown what we could do second half."

Weymouth assistant boss Paul Maitland said: "First half we played some good football, created some good chances and scored a goal worthy of winning any cup game."

"Second half Totton, as you'd expect, came at us with a bit more purpose and more energy. They introduced two or three of their more recognised forward players as we defended resolutely."

Weymouth gave a second-half sub appearance to striker River Smith, who recently joined Sydenhams Premier outfit Hamble Club from Ringwood.

"We just wanted to take another look at him," said Maitland. "Someone who scores goals is always going to create a bit of interest."

NON LEAGUE



NON LEAGUE FIXTURES

Tuesday, November 28

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE
AFC Fylde v Maidstone.

EVO-STIK SOUTH

Premier: Banbury v Kettering, Basingstoke v Weymouth, Biggleswade v King's Lynn, Bishops Cleeve v Dunstable, Chesham v Stratford, Gosport Borough v Kings Langley, Hereford v Frome, Royston v St Neots, Slough v Redditch, St Ives v Hitchin, Tiverton v Merthyr Town.
West: Bristol Manor Farm v Taunton, Cinderford v Larkhall, Didcot v Salisbury, North Leigh v Winchester City, Shortwood v Barnstaple, Swindon Supermarine v Bishops Cleeve, Yate v Paulton Rovers.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Hamble Club v Bashley.

DORSET SENIOR CUP

Quarter-final: Hamworthy Utd v Poole Town, Portland Utd v Verwood, Shaftesbury v Bridport, Wimborne v Dorchester.

BOURNEMOUTH SENIOR CUP

Brookhurst v Lymington Town.

RUSSELL COTES CUP

AFC Portchester v Petersfield.

SALISBURY HOSPITAL CUP

Amesbury v Andover.

Saturday, December 2

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Bromley v Dover, FC Halifax v Barrow, Hartlepool v Macclesfield, Solihull Moors v Leyton Orient, Sutton v Eastleigh, Torquay v Aldershot, Wrexham v Maidenhead.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Bath v Hemel Hempstead, Bognor Regis v Concord, Chelmsford v Hungerford, Chippenham v Whitehawk, Gloucester v Eastbourne Borough, Havant & Waterlooville v Oxford City, Poole v Dartford, Truro v St Albans, Wealdstone v Braintree, Welling v East Thurrock, Weston-super-Mare v Hampton & Richmond.

EVO-STIK SOUTH

Premier: Bishops Cleeve v St Neots, Frome v Kettering, Hitchin v Dunstable, Kings Lynn v Redditch, Merthyr Town v Biggleswade, Royston v Dorchester, St Ives v Banbury, Stratford v Farnborough, Tiverton v Kings Langley, Weymouth v Chesham.

West: AFC Totton v Cirencester, Barnstaple v Wimborne, Cinderford v North Leigh, Didcot v Slimbridge, Kidlington v Bishops Cleeve, Larkhall v Taunton, Salisbury v Bideford, Shortwood v Mangotsfield, Swindon Supermarine v Paulton, Winchester City v Evesham, Yate v Bristol Manor Farm.

FA VASE

Third round proper: Bradford Town v Team Solent, Christchurch v Newport IW, Hamble Club v Hordean, Horley Town v Baffins Milton Rovers, Sholing v Blackfield & Langley.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Amesbury v Portland, Andover v Hamworthy Utd, Bashley v Lymington Town, Cowes Sports v Bemerton HH, Fareham Town v Alresford, Petersfield Town v Bournemouth Poppies, Shaftesbury v AFC Portchester.
Division One: AFC Stoneham v Tadley Calvea, Alton v US Portsmouth, Downton v New Milton, East Cowes Vics v Fawley, Laverstock & Ford v Whitchurch, Ringwood v Totton & Eling, Romsey v Folland Sports, Verwood v Hythe & Dibden.

NEW FOREST CARE HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier Division: Fleetlands v Stockbridge, Hedge End Rangers v Bush Hill, Locks Heath v Clanfield.

Division One: Four Marks v AFC Petersfield, Headley Utd v Lyndhurst, South Wonston Swifts v Netley Central.

Combination: Clanfield v Headley Utd, Liphook v Fleetlands.

HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP

Third round: Bush Hill Res v Golden Common (TBC), Infinity v Bournemouth Sports, Montefiore Halls v Overton, Paulsgrove v Sway (TBC), QK Southampton v Oakfield, Southampton University v Overton, US Portsmouth Res v Michelmersh or Alton Res, Westover Bournemouth v Liphook, Whitecroft & Barton v Liss Athletic, Winchester Castle v Hayling Utd.



Sam Bayston, right.

Matty delighted with Magpies

MATTY Holmes was brimming with praise for his Wimborne Town players as they reeled off their third straight November win in the Evo-Stik South West.

Goals by Luke Burbidge, Sam Bayston and James Stokoe ensured the Magpies went seventh in the table with a 3-1 result against struggling Mangotsfield United at Cuthbury.

"We played some lovely football

and created some fabulous chances," swooned Holmes.

"Sam Bayston came in on the left and did very well. He got himself a goal and I was pleased for him.

"Scott Arnold came in and did his usual role as skipper. He did a good job to get the boys organised.

"Luke Burbidge again caused problems and Stokesy (Stokoe) was great holding up the ball. I

could not fault any of them.

"They all did their jobs and proved their quality."

Man-of-the-match Bayston, formerly of Poole Town, New Milton and Hamworthy, tweeted: "MOM, a goal and 3 points. Can't ask for anymore. What a run we are on."

This coming Tuesday, Wimborne host Dorchester Town in the Dorset Senior Cup quarter-finals.

Spitfires' status boost

Wendy Gee



EASTLEIGH FC'S commitment to promoting and coaching youth football has been rewarded with FA Charter Standard status.

But the Spitfires, named Hampshire FA Inclusive Club of the Year for 2017, are not content to leave it there.

They have set their sights on reaching the next rung of the ladder – to become an FA Charter Standard Development Club.

In keeping with growing the club in the community, a new 'Wildcats' session is taking place on the 3G pitch at The Silverlake Stadium on Sundays (11am-noon).

It is aimed at girls in school years 2 and 3 with a view to creating a brand new under-9 team for next season.

Eastleigh have a thriving girls' and ladies' section which, over the last 18 months, has grown from no female players whatsoever to a phenomenal 114, made up of six youth teams and a ladies' squad.

The Spitfires also have girls and women playing in the Pan Disability League in mixed under-12, under-16 and adult teams, training once a week for an hour on 3G.

In association with the National League Trust, there are two six-a-side tournaments running for school teams in the under-11 age-group.

The first will take place on December 6 for the boys, with the girls' tournament to follow on December 13.

All ten spaces for the boys' tournament were snapped up within a week of being promoted to schools but, as of last Monday, there were three girls' spaces remaining.

Eastleigh want to find a team to represent them in the regional finals from where the two best sides will play at Wembley Stadium on Saturday, May 12, prior to the National League Promotion Final.

Meanwhile, Sporting Memories Network and the football club



Eastleigh Wildcats poster.

are having weekly meetings on a Monday afternoon (4-6pm) for older people living with dementia, depression or loneliness.

The aim is to get the power of sport to trigger memories. The sessions take a similar format every week to enable the attendees to get familiar with the concept and surroundings.

Gazz Davison, Eastleigh's head of community, said "There is a lot going on at the club at the moment, catering for all ages and

genders.

"We are committed to Football For All and will look to further engage and work with the community, continuing to make them an important part of the club.

"I am excited about the Sporting Memories Network meetings as they are a great chance to reminisce with the senior members of the community."

He added: "Eastleigh FC has been awarded the FA Charter Standard recently and we are

rightfully proud to have this accreditation. It shows the commitment the club has in promoting and coaching youth football in the correct and respectful manner.

"Each team has a minimum of an FA Level 1-qualified coach, along with First Aid, Safeguarding and an enhanced Criminal Records Check to ensure children are coached in a safe environment."

For more information, please contact Gazz in the club shop or email gazz@eastleighfc.com

NON LEAGUE



Rory Fallon, right.

Fallon retires after 'epic football journey'

DORCHESTER Town striker Rory Fallon has announced his retirement from professional football.

The move comes after he went away on international duty with New Zealand, where the All Whites suffered a 2-0 defeat to Peru in the final World Cup qualifying round.

Fallon last played for

Dorchester in a 2-1 win over Basingstoke Town in the second qualifying round of the Buildbase FA Trophy.

In a statement Fallon, who represented his country at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, spoke of having two dreams: to have a long playing career and to reach a World Cup Finals.

Fallon said: "I'm blessed to

have achieved both. It would have been amazing to have reached another World Cup in Russia, but Peru were the better team on the final leg in Lima.

He added: "The football journey has been epic and I thank everybody that has shared it with me. I've made many great memories and friends. Now on to the next chapter."

Benitez – I'll still be boss

RAFAEL Benitez is confident he will still be Newcastle manager in a year's time whether or not a takeover happens.

The 57-year-old Spaniard spent his pre-match press conference ahead of Saturday's Premier League clash with Watford fielding questions about the club's ownership after it emerged that the PCP Capital Partners group headed by Amanda Staveley had tabled a formal bid.

Fans who have railed against current owner Mike Ashley for much of his reign to date are pinning their hopes on a takeover and subsequent January investment to boost the Magpies' chances of retaining their place in the top flight.

However Benitez, who has been left frustrated after the last two transfer

Hayter moves on loan to get games

Wendy Gee



EXPERIENCED striker James Hayter has joined Weymouth on a month's loan from Havant & Waterlooville.

The former AFC Bournemouth star links up with fellow ex-Cherries player Mark Molesley who manages the Terras.

"James is going to Weymouth to get some minutes and obviously, with four centre-forwards at the moment, it's hard to keep them all fit and get them game time," explained H&W boss Lee Bradbury.

"James deserves to play games of football. He's 38 and wants to play and I get that and we will get a better James Hayter back at the end of the month like we did Matt Tubbs and Jordan Rose.

"It's not that I'd like to let anyone out, but I want to keep the squad fit, hungry and raring to go and that's certainly the case for Hayts."

Hayter's first game for Weymouth coincided with a 3-0 defeat at high-riding Slough Town in the Evo-Stik South Premier last weekend.

But Terras assistant boss Paul Maitland praised the new signing, saying: "He was unlucky. A couple of the crosses that came in just eluded him.

"He had a positive impact on the team and the players, as you would expect a player of that calibre to do. He was certainly a plus point today."

Havant have also allowed defender Lee Molyneaux to join his old club Gosport Borough on loan – another arrangement which Bradbury believes will suit all parties.

"I have got a good relationship with Mark Molesley (Weymouth manager), who I used to play with at Bournemouth, and it suits geo-



James Hayter in his Cherries days

graphically for the lads that are down that way and it's a good standard of football that doesn't harm what we do," said Bradbury.

"Along with that, Gosport things have changed behind the scenes with Mick Catlin coming into the

job and it's great that we can have a working relationship with Gosport Borough and try and help them out of trouble by loaning them the odd player.

"Mick Catlin has always been respectful to me and this football

club and I don't mind helping people like Mick.

"We have some good centre-halves here and it (going on loan to Gosport) just gives Molls (Molyneaux) the opportunity to get match fit and get some games under his belt."



Rafael Benitez.

windows, is confident he will still be in charge in 12 months' time regardless of what transpires over the next few weeks.

Asked if that would be the case, he said: "I think so. I'm quite happy with this group of players, they're improving, they're learning. I think so. I don't see any difficulty now. Just for me it is a challenge. I was disappointed after the summer? Yes. But still this is a chance for me."

Benitez is taking a pragmatic approach as he awaits news from the boardroom, and admits that even a successful bid may not change things to any great extent for January with Financial Fair Play rules dictating how much the club could spend even if money was available. But he acknowledges that a swift resolution one way or the other would be better for him, his staff and the players.

NON LEAGUE



Cantona – I want Pep

MANCHESTER United great Eric Cantona wishes Pep Guardiola was his former side's manager and not Jose Mourinho.

They are two of the most prolific title-winning managers in world football but have markedly different styles.

Guardiola is renowned for wanting the game played in a particularly stylish way, while Mourinho is viewed as more pragmatic and defensive.

For Cantona, one of the Premier League's great artists, there is one man he would like to see in the Old Trafford dugout.

"I love Mourinho as a manager and I said it before he arrived in Manchester, he is very intelligent, clever, he takes all the pressure on himself," he told BBC 5 Live.

"He has a lot of charisma, has won a lot of things and will win a lot of things.

"But, the football I played, and (Sir Alex) Ferguson played, Matt Busby before, it was very creative.

"But today, in football, I loved (Johan) Cruyff when he was manager at Barcelona, I loved Ajax in the 70s, I grew up with this kind of football and the football we played with Ferguson was very creative and more Manchester United. "It's why I prefer the way Guardiola plays and I would prefer to have him as manager of Manchester United."

Guardiola's City have swept all before them so far this season and sit top of the Premier League, eight points clear of United, going into the weekend's fixtures.

Guardiola appears to have finally implemented the style he made so successful at Barcelona and Bayern Munich, and Cantona cannot understand why United's board would not have wanted him in red.

"It's more logical," he added. "I cannot understand why Manchester United take a manager who plays in a defensive way but is a great manager, a great man and I still love him but I prefer to watch a game when Barcelona play.

"I don't watch Manchester City but I would love to play for a team managed by Guardiola."

Pompey CEO to open new suite

BAFFINS Milton Rovers are preparing to welcome a special guest to their Kendall Stadium home tomorrow (Sunday, November 26).

Portsmouth FC CEO Mark Catlin will be dropping in at 12 noon to officially open the Sydenhams Premier Division outfit's new hospitality suite.

Boosted by a £20,000 grant from the Football Stadia Improvement Fund (FSIF), Baffins have been able to install a new clubhouse, comprising a bar and kitchen area, spectator seating and toilets.

This is in addition to the existing hospital-ity area that had become too small to support the club's growing fanbase following their rapid rise through the ranks from the Ports-



mouth Saturday League.

The club was only formed in 2011 following the amalgamation of two successful Sunday

League clubs, Baffins Milton and Milton Rovers.

Under the leadership of Louis Bell, they won yet another promotion as Sydenhams One runners-up behind Hamble Club last season and, like the Monks, have settled into a comfortable mid-table spot.

● Funded with £6.5m each year from the Premier League, the FSIF is the country's largest provider of grants towards projects that help improve the comfort and safety of lower league football grounds in both the professional and amateur game.

These improvements range from new football stands and turnstiles to floodlighting and improved provision for disabled supporters.

Walker on his way back to happiness!

Wendy Gee



GLAD tidings have been thin on the ground at Poole Town this season.

But news that defender Michael Walker has stepped up his recovery from a serious knee injury has brought a smile to manager Tom Killick's face.

Walker has not played a minute of football for the Dolphins since suffering knee ligament damage during the 3-2 defeat at Concord Rangers 12 months ago.

He was stretched off having landed awkwardly following a seemingly innocuous clash with former Poole loan striker Jordan Chiedozie.

Having finally gone under the knife in the summer, Walker's wait for competitive football is expected to be over in the spring of next year.

While he will not rush the former Weymouth and Wimborne man into a return, Killick is delighted to see the defender on the mend.

"I still think it will be a little while to go for Walks, but he is the sort of person who we would dearly love to have in and around it.

"The sooner he is back the better, as far as I'm concerned.

"It would be great to see him back on the pitch, whether that is in February, March, April or whenever.

"It has to be done at his pace and we will welcome him back with open arms when he is ready."

The encouraging news about Walker was offset by more disap-



Michael Walker, right.

pointment last Saturday as a 1-0 defeat at Hampton & Richmond Borough sent Poole plunging back into the National League South bottom four.

Their woes were compounded by wins for fellow strugglers Bognor Regis Town, Oxford City and Concord Rangers as they dropped to 19th in the table.

Reflecting on the Hampton & Richmond defeat, decided by a goal from on-loan Sutton United man Adam Coombes, Killick said: "It wasn't a very good game in terms of neither side created many chances. But, being the away team, that was more of a positive for us.

"There was hardly anything in

it. We just had one lapse in concentration and they scored from it early in the second half.

"Hampton have now won seven games in a row in all competitions, but they barely created an opportunity against us.

"The players have put a lot into the game but got nothing and it is painful when that happens."

NON LEAGUE



Moneys rack up NINTH red of season!

ANOTHER week another red card for Moneyfields.

The Evo-Stik South East pace-setters maintained the four-point gap at the top with a 3-1 home win over Hanwell Town last weekend.

But yet again victory was soured by going down to ten men – Ryan Pennery the latest ‘villain’ of the piece with a second-half dismissal for violent conduct.

It was their ninth red of the season with dual-signed Baffins Milton Rovers striker Pennery joining Steve Hutchings (3), Brett Poate, Lewis Fennemore, Conor Bailey, Gary Austin and ex-Saints Academy and AFC Totton goalkeeper Steve Mowthorpe in the disciplinary

doghouse.

Moneyfields missed out on the Sydenhams Premier Division title last season after being docked three points for fielding an ineligible player, meaning it was Portland United who claimed the crown.

And after making such a big impact in their debut Southern League season, the last thing manager Dave Carter would want to see is disciplinary problems undermining his newly-promoted side.

“We speak to the players before every game about discipline and are determined to put it right,” he said. “Unless we do, there is a danger it could derail our season.”

To be fair to young Pennery, sent off

for a reckless late challenge, it was the first red card of his career.

The same can't be said of serial offender Hutchings who is launching into a five-match ban.

Skipper Hutchings struck twice against Hanwell – the first from the penalty spot after the nippy Pennery had been floored.

Sandwiched between was a fine finish from winger Joe Briggs, who joined Moneys from Winchester City during the summer. He cut in from the right and beat the ‘keeper with a shot from the edge of the box.

Second-to-bottom Hanwell pulled one back through Oliver Duffy with three minutes of normal time remaining.



Joe Briggs.

Carrick's hearty return

MANCHESTER United captain Michael Carrick is targeting a swift return to action after undergoing a procedure to treat an irregular heart rhythm.

Carrick revealed he had felt something was wrong during his only outing of the season - a 4-1 EFL Cup victory over Burton in September - and underwent tests to determine the problem.

Having had a cardiac ablation to correct the problem, the 36-year-old says he is now “healthy” and focused on making his comeback for United.

He wrote in a statement posted on Twitter: “I just want to clear up my situation as I’ve had quite a few people asking if I’m OK and why I haven’t been fit over the last couple of months.

“After feeling strange during the second half of the Burton game in September I underwent a series of tests. It turned out to be an irregular heart rhythm which has been fully investigated and I had a procedure called a cardiac ablation.

“I had to build up training steadily while being monitored closely but I feel fine now.

“I would like to reassure everyone that I’m healthy and back training hard with the team. I’m building up my fitness and aiming to be back in contention for selection soon.”

The British Heart Foundation describes ablation as using either heat or freezing on the areas of the heart that cause an abnormal rhythm.

BHF adds on its website: “This treatment creates scar tissue which breaks abnormal circuits in the heart (and) destroys areas of the heart muscle which are triggering arrhythmias.”

Carrick has been a key presence at the centre of United’s midfield for over a decade, having joined from Tottenham in an £18million deal in the summer of 2006.

He has made more than 400 appearances for the Red Devils and his trophy haul includes five Premier League crowns and FA Cup and Champions League triumphs.

He signed a one-year deal in May to extend his stay at Old Trafford until the end of this campaign.

Portland boss in seventh heaven!

Wendy Gee



PORTLAND United boss Simon Browne has yet another right-hand man.

Jake Richmond, who spent four years in charge of Weymouth Reserves, becomes the seventh assistant manager at Grove Corner this season.

He follows in the footsteps of permanent appointments Mark Carter, Carl Mutch and Rich Robson – plus temporary stints undertaken by Ian Hutchinson, Paul Robinson and Micky Greeno.

Browne said: “Hopefully it’s lucky number seven and that will be it for the rest of the season.

“I’ve known Jake quite a long time. We played youth football together, so it was really just a case of sitting down and seeing what he was going to bring to the table.

“I’ve noticed in games when we haven’t had an assistant that I’ve been running around and not had someone to bounce ideas off.

“I said to Jake not to go with everything I do, but to have his own input.”

Richmond was due to take his place in the dugout away at Team Solent today.

● EASTLEIGH young gun Tom Bearwish bounced off the bench to rescue Portland United a last-gasp 2-2 Sydenhams Premier Division draw at home to Hamble Club last Saturday.

Hamble had raced 2-0 up inside 30 minutes at Grove Corner through Doug Rowe and recent signing River Smith from Ringwood Town.



Portland United assistant Jake Richmond

Ryan McKechnie pulled one back for Portland on the hour before the Islanders were reduced to ten men when Jamie Beasley picked up a second yellow card.

But the home side kept going and got their reward in the second minute of stoppage time when Bearwish combined with fellow sub Alex Godfrey to rescue

a point for his side.

Bearwish, who came through the Portland youth ranks, was part of the Eastleigh under-18 side that reached the FA Youth Cup first round at Plymouth Argyle this season and has also been signed on with Evo-Stik South Premier outfit Dorchester Town.

Discussing Portland’s fightback

against Hamble Club, boss Simon Browne said: “Credit to the guys. We kept pressing and pressing and knocking on the door.

“That side of things is pleasing in terms of effort and commitment, but I can’t but help feeling that if we’d started a bit better we’d be talking about another three points.”

NON LEAGUE



Pep's youth chances

PEP Guardiola insists further chances will come for the likes of Phil Foden at Manchester City – if they deserve it.

Foden, the highly-rated City Academy product and star of England's recent Under-17 World Cup win, was handed his first-team debut as a second-half substitute against Feyenoord in midweek.

Brahim Diaz, another exciting teenage prospect, was also given a late taste of the action.

Their opportunities may have arisen because City's progress to the Champions League last 16 allowed Guardiola to rotate his squad in the group fixture, but the manager says they could now earn more chances. He said: "If we give an opportunity to young players it is because they deserve it. That is the most important thing."

"But one young player, you can say we helped them when they play regularly. If they play one or two games and then disappear that is nothing."

"It depends on our confidence and their confidence but the rest always depends on them. People say it depends on the manager but it depends on the players."

"The quality, how they live their professional lives, how they are – it is simple like that."

Guardiola has a good record of promoting youth players from his past spells in charge of Barcelona.

That is something he is proud of but says he selects such players "because they are good, not for my statistics".

It seems unlikely either Foden, 17, or 18-year-old Diaz will be involved as City look to maintain their flying start to the Premier League season at Huddersfield on Sunday.

City have collected 34 points from a maximum 36 and have won their last 17 matches in all competitions.

Goalkeeper Ederson has been one of the key components in City's success, bringing assured performances and bolstering confidence in the defence since his £35 million summer move from Benfica.

Guardiola said of the Brazilian: "He is so calm. In the bad moments and the good moments it is always the same behaviour and that gives us a lot of confidence."

Zack is recalled from his Salisbury loan spell



Zack Kotwica, right.

SALISBURY were dealt a blow this week when striker Zack Kotwica was recalled from his loan spell at the Raymond McEnhill Stadium.

Parent club Gloucester City have taken the 21-year-old back into the fold after a promising month at Old Sarum.

Kotwica linked up with Steve Claridge's men on October 25, making his debut in a dramatic 5-4 win at Winchester City in the Evo-Stik South West.

He grabbed his first Whites goal in the following game, a 2-0 win at

Barnstaple Town, and the highlight of his stay was a hat-trick in the Wiltshire Senior Cup against Swindon Supermarine last week.

Kotwica struck again on his final Salisbury appearance last weekend, giving Salisbury the first-half lead at Cinderford Town.

In a lightning raid, ex-Winchester City midfielder Stuart Green got free on the right and squared the ball for Kotwica who made no mistake with a low, first-time finish.

But a Craig Norman header

for Cinderford minutes after the break pegged the Whites back for a 1-1 draw in the Forest of Dean.

With Charlie Searle suspended and Nathan Ball taking a break from football, 19-year-old rookie 'keeper Tom Roberts impressed on his debut in goal as Salisbury made it six away league games unbeaten.

Former Cheltenham Town man Kotwica leaves Old Sarum having scored five goals in five appearances and the Wiltshire club have thanked him for his "short but excellent service."

Purples out to Russell up another cup shock

Wendy Gee



AFC STONEHAM have another giant-killing in their sights in the quarter-finals of the Russell Cotes Cup.

The Purples will travel to the winners of this Tuesday's outstanding tie between AFC Portchester v Petersfield Town tie after pulling the rug out from under Lymington Town.

It should have been plain sailing for Sydenhams Premier outfit Lymo when they led 2-0 and then 3-2 at Stoneham's HP Arena.

But Sergio Caballero, Will Harris and Alex Welch's towering header kept the Wessex One hosts in it 3-3 and Stoneham emerged victorious from the penalty shootout, winning 4-2.

Fareham Town had not read the Russell Cotes script either.

They also knocked out higher league opposition, registering an emphatic 4-1 win over Evo-Stik South Premier neighbours Gosport Borough at Cams Alders.

Scott Hamilton gave the Creeksiders an eighth-minute lead and doubled it early in the second half.

George Davis bagged Fareham's third before Jordan Whiteley ignited a subdued Gosport with what turned out to be no more than a consolation goal.

Teenager Matt Simm netted Fareham's fourth in stoppage-time.

It sets up an all-Sydenhams Premier quarter-final tie against Dave Diaper's Sholing at Cams Alders on January 9.

Manager Glenn Burnett made five changes to his table-topping Andover Town side, yet they still managed to overcome in-form



George Hallahan, right.

Sydenhams Premier rivals Bemerton Heath Harlequins 4-2 to reach the RCC quarter-finals.

Having broken the deadlock from Reece Rusher's threaded pass, Andover's George Hallahan made it 2-0 from the penalty spot after Rusher had been brought down.

Goalkeeper Kieran McHardy made two excellent saves from Bemmy's Seb Dawes to protect that lead, but an own goal shortly before the break made it 2-1.

Bemerton so nearly levelled when a stinging shot from ex-AFC Totton midfielder Jake Burgess

skimmed the bar, but Joe Wright gave Andover breathing space after Alex Dockree had touched on Ben Cook's free-kick.

Still the Harlequins weren't done, however, with veteran marksman Robbie Matthews netting a header to make it 3-2.

Having used all their substitutes, Andover were forced to finish the game with ten men when McAulie Stubbs went off injured, but still they mustered a killer fourth.

Bemerton 'keeper Rob Crossley did well to keeper out Rusher's shot, but the ball ran loose for the

predatory Hallahan to complete his hat-trick.

It sets up Andover with a home tie against Hampshire Premier League survivors Paulsgrove in the last eight.

The other quarter-final is an all-Southern League affair.

Evo-Stik South West outfit AFC Totton – the highest-placed side left in the competition – must travel to Fleet Town who are just about keeping their heads above water in the East division.

That tie is scheduled to take place at Calthorpe Park on Tuesday, January 16 (7.45pm).

NON LEAGUE



Kabba Jack

Kabba fires Bash into Senior Cup final

KABBA Jack has fired Bashley into to the final of the Bournemouth Senior Cup.

His deadly finish proved the difference as the Foresters celebrated a hard-earned 1-0 win over Downton on Tuesday.

Wing-back Sam Jackson cut inside and found Bashley's resident 'Jack in the box' with a sharp cross.

Calmly taming the ball, the tricky frontman twisted and turned before rifling an unstoppable drive past Robins' keeper Steve Jones.

Earlier Jones had been both villain and hero, upending Lewis Ross to concede a penalty before denying him from the spot.

Ross rarely misses from 12 yards, but Jones managed to

push his effort onto the post before the ball rolled along the line and back into the grateful keeper's hands.

Brockenhurst host Lymington Town in the quarter-finals on Tuesday, with Verwood Town having already secured their place in the last four.

The final is due to take place at the MA Hart Stadium, Hurn Bridge, in December.

Dyche – no compromise

SEAN Dyche has vowed to resist compromising his side's "pragmatic" approach to the game despite claims his reliance on a more direct style is hindering his chances of landing a top job.

Former Liverpool player turned pundit Jamie Carragher has hailed Dyche's success with the Clarets and believes Everton ought to be "bursting his door" down as they seek a replacement for Ronald Koeman.

Dyche goes into Sunday's Turf Moor clash with Arsenal having lifted Burnley into the top half of the Premier League table but while he rejects insinuations of long-ball tactics, he insists he must never lose sight of the club's true aim.

Dyche said: "The name of the game is to win, and if you ask Burnley fans if they enjoy what we're doing, I'd imagine they would say yes.

"The word pragmatic comes out – in other walks of life, 'pragmatic' would be a golden word – people who get things done, build things, and move things forward.

"In football it's not quite like that. But we've had to be pragmatic in the early days of being here to build all of this, and now we're trying to just mould it a little bit more.

"Working with your group to be effective is my number one priority. I like mixed football, because it increases your chances of getting the outcome you want. There's got to be a balance to it in my view."

While all the talk has been of the Clarets' sturdy defence this season, Dyche has attacking riches at his disposal for the game as he bids to right the wrongs of two controversial defeats to the Gunners last season.

Chris Wood is set to return to the starting line-up after missing last week's win over Swansea following his return from World Cup play-off duty with New Zealand, with Ashley Barnes likely to join Sam Vokes on the bench.

Dyche added: "It's the headache we wanted at the beginning of the season, because you want those players to be performing. I thought Barnes was fantastic last week – he did the ugly stuff well and scored a lovely goal."

'We've earned our day in the sun'

Wendy Gee



CITY boss Craig Davis says his young reserve side have "earned their place in the sun" after landing the plum tie of the Southampton Senior Cup quarter-finals.

The Evo-Stik South West club have been drawn at home to Saints, who are back in the competition this season to sprinkle some stardust on the Cup's centenary celebrations.

So far a youthful Saints XI have played two home games, hammering BTC Southampton 6-0 and QK Southampton 12-0 at Staplewood.

The Winchester tie, set to take place on Thursday, January 11 (7.45pm), has been welcomed with open arms by the cathedral city outfit who have been fielding a largely young side in the competition – and will continue to do so against Saints under-23s.

"It's a perfect draw for us with the way we've been playing with a young team in the competition and I'd like to think there'll be a half decent crowd in for that game," said Davis.

Thankless task

"Obviously we don't want to get murdered by Saints, so we will have some first-team squad members involved but, other than that, we'll be playing the young team that turn out for the reserves and travel everywhere.

"It's a thankless task sometimes, even for the reserve management team. They deserve their place in the sun.

"With the greatest will in the world, we're unlikely to win the cup because a lot of the other clubs are fielding a full, strong team.

"But for our young side who've



Winchester City boss Craig Davis.

battled through a couple of rounds, getting kicked to bits in the process, this is a fantastic reward."

Hampshire Premier League second tier club Netley Central Sports won through to the last eight with a shock 2-0 result over higher division Infinity at the weekend – Matt Watts scoring both goals.

They will now host Sydenhams Premier Division outfit Lymington Town.

Last season's St Mary's winners

Sholing still have a grip on the trophy...but only just.

The holders dug deep and scored twice in the last nine minutes to wipe out a 2-0 deficit at Brockenhurst.

Brothers Dan and Barry Mason pulled it back to 2-2 after a Byron Mason own goal and Noel McCarthy-Gardiner had seemingly set Brock on course to victory.

Dan Mason began the fightback with another audacious overhead kick on 81 minutes and, with the tie two minutes into stoppage

time, big brother Barry headed home Kev Brewster's corner.

Boatmen's goalkeeper Ryan Gosney then played his part with three big saves in a 3-2 penalty shootout win.

Sholing will now entertain neighbours Hamble Club, who saw off Bush Hill 3-1 thanks to Craig Shrimpton, Doug Rowe and Liam Crook.

Southampton Senior Cup, quarter-final draw: Sholing v Hamble Club, Netley Central Sports v Lymington Town, Team Solent v Blackfield & Langley, Winchester City v Southampton.

NON LEAGUE



Big day for Terrier Smith

HUDDERSFIELD captain Tommy Smith wants to give boyhood club Manchester City a bloody nose this weekend.

Pep Guardiola's runaway leaders are looking to continue their outstanding run at the John Smith's Stadium on Sunday, when victory would take them onto 37 points – a Premier League record at this stage of the season.

However, Huddersfield will try to end City's unbeaten start to the campaign, just as they did when Manchester United arrived in West Yorkshire last month.

It is another big day for Town – and a special moment for their captain.

Smith joined City aged 11 and spent almost a decade there before leaving in search of regular first-team football, eventually joining Huddersfield and helping them out of the Championship.

"I could see that the money was coming in and players were getting bought left, right and centre," Smith said.

"I am sure myself and a lot of the other players were thinking, 'Is there a place for me here?'"

"It wasn't to be and I've moved on, and I am completely happy with the choice I made when I came to this football club.

"I've been here five years now and I've enjoyed every single minute."

John Guidetti, the Sweden and Celta Vigo forward, and Olympiacos' Omar Elabdellaoui, who spent a spell on loan at Hull earlier this year, are the only others from Smith's age group at City to have forged a top-level career. The fact they were too were unable to establish themselves at the Etihad Stadium justifies the defender's decision to depart, so too the fact that the 25-year-old could be leading Huddersfield out against them on Sunday.

The Town skipper has not played since last month's 3-0 loss at Liverpool, but Smith is up for the challenge of getting into the side – and securing an upset.

"We will always be confident – that's just the nature of our squad, the staff and the manager," he said. "We're definitely confident. We know it is going to be tough, but this is the Premier League and this is what we knew we were going to be in for:

End of the Youth Cup road for Sholing U18s

SHOLING'S historic FA Youth Cup adventure reached the end of the road on Wednesday night.

The Boatmen's under-18s, through to the second round proper for the first time ever, bowed out 5-0 at Leyton Orient.

Match preparation wasn't helped by a four-hour coach journey to London, due to traffic problems, leading to a delayed kick-off.

Despite that, Sholing's young guns were still well in the tie

at half-time, trailing to a 37th-minute Charles Clayden strike for the Vanarama National League club.

The Os – coached by former Salisbury City defender Danny Webb – made it 2-0 just after the hour and that sparked double trouble for the Wessex League visitors who had James Johnson red-carded in the wake of that goal following an altercation with striker Ruel Sotiriou.

Sotiriou was booked along with two of his Orient teammates.

Sholing goalkeeper Aaron Whitmarsh did his best to stem the Orient tide, while Jean-Luc Ramdin fired a decent opportunity wide for the ten-man Boatmen after picking up a loose ball outside the box.

Sotiriou made it 3-0 with a superbly-taken solo effort, leaving a late brace from Jaedon Phillips to wrap things up, booking the Os

a third round trip to West Bromwich Albion.

It brought the curtain down on a fairytale run for Sholing, who had beaten Wimborne Town, Team Solent, Aldershot Town and Clevedon Town en route to Brisbane Road.

"The lads have done amazing to get this far in the competition, create history and do the club proud," said a Boatmen's spokesman.

Diaper's big wish – bigger crowds

Wendy Gee



AFTER some 950 games in charge, Dave Diaper still thoroughly enjoys his job as Sholing manager.

The Boatmen's enviable mix of loyal senior players and exciting, up-and-coming talent is guaranteed to put a smile on his face.

But one thing that spoils it for the Boatmen's 2014 FA Vase-winning boss is the constant struggle to get people through the gate.

Although a crowd of 288 turned up for the recent free-entry game against Fareham Town, just three days later that had shrunk to just 60 clicks of the turnstile for the 3-0 Sydenhams Premier win over Hamworthy United.

Averagely gates at the Universal Stadium hover between the 80 and 145 mark – a poor reward for a club who gloriously graced Wembley's hallowed turf just over three years ago.

"It's disappointing," said Diaper.

"We've got our group of Sholing Ultras who are very good, but it would be nice to get regular crowds of 170/180.

"Where we are in Portsmouth Road is about one-and-a-half miles outside Sholing, but it's only a walk up the road. The size of our crowds is the one disappointment me."

Diaper, though, says Sholing are not the only ones suffering from lack of support.

"I go round all the grounds and it's sad to see the way crowds have declined at this level," he said.

"Back in the day the old Road-Sea Southampton would have had 180/190 watching a Sunday game.

"Local football has taken a bit of a dive support-wise, I'm sorry

Sholing's Ultras.



to say.

"There's so much live football on TV these and we've got Bournemouth in the Premier League now (as well as Saints).

"I'd like to see every local club flourish. It's hard work running a football club and it needs to be recognised.

"We need more people to get off

their bums and come along and support their local club."

Diaper acknowledges, though, that a large part of Sholing's problem is their lack of facilities.

They struck the jackpot of a £100,000 ground improvement 'super grant' from FA sponsors Budweiser in May, but that money cannot be touched until the FA

say so.

"The FA will decide what's happening at our place in March or April next year," said Diaper.

"Our soccer schools and the youth side of the club are buzzing at the moment.

"We just need the facilities to back it up."

NON LEAGUE

'There's light at the end of the tunnel'

Wendy
Gee



CHAIRMAN Iain Sellstrom is optimistic of "light at the end of the tunnel" for troubled Gosport Borough.

The lifting of the transfer embargo that has handicapped the Evo-Stik South Premier strugglers is already a major step in the right direction.

And Sellstrom confirmed this week that there were interested parties looking to invest in the club. It has sparked speculation that former Portsmouth chairman Iain McInnes could be part of a positive new future for the Privett Park outfit.

Sellstrom, appointed chairman in July, is at the helm of a club that, for the past two years, have been dogged by financial turmoil.

Gosport have somehow survived a half-a-dozen winding-up orders by HMRC and their football debts saw them placed under another transfer embargo from the start of this season.

It means that team boss Mick Catlin, who succeeded Alex Pike towards the end of September, had been operating with a bare bones squad of just 16 players, effectively managing with both hands tied behind his back.

It was no coincidence that the lifting of the embargo coincided with a long overdue first league win of the season – a 1-0 triumph over fellow strugglers Dunstable Town – last Saturday.

Now Sellstrom hopes more good news is just around the corner.

"I borrowed the money from a contact to enable us to finally get the transfer embargo lifted last week," explained the Gosport chairman, speaking earlier this week. "There are potential investors waiting in the wings to get involved at the club."

"There are a couple of historical issues to be sorted but, hopefully, that can be done in the next couple of days. Once that has been done, the investors will step forward."

"When I became chairman, it was with the aim of saving the club. If all this works out then I will have done my job."

"It has not been easy because the debts were far worse than



Lee Molyneaux (above right) in the 2014 FA Trophy final. Boss Mick Catlin, below left.



I contemplated. The same can be said about the problems surrounding them.

"Now, though, I can definitely see some light at the end of the tunnel."

THE lifting of Gosport Borough's transfer embargo had a miraculous effect last weekend.

Manager Mick Catlin went straight out and signed striker James Thomson from Hamble Club, along with loaning former Borough defender Lee Molyneaux from National League South neighbours Havant & Waterlooville.

Both played their part in a priceless 1-0 victory over fellow basement boys Dunstable Town in the Evo-Stik South Premier.

With just one team to go down this season, it left rock-bottom Borough just two points behind their visitors with three games in hand.

"Getting the embargo off us was a big achievement and we were

desperate to get a win today to top that off," said a relieved Catlin afterwards.

"Signing James Thomson was a bit of a wildcard. I didn't have too many options and he was recommended by a friend of mine."

"I needed a big targetman and someone to be physical and he did everything I wanted. It was a perfect debut for him."

"He hasn't played for a while and I realised he wasn't going to last the full 90 minutes, but he gave it everything he had."

"I challenged James on Friday to come and be a hero with us and he did just that!"

"Lee Molyneaux made a massive contribution at the back too, helping us keep a clean sheet."

"If it hadn't been for our two new faces, we wouldn't have won."

Marko looks forward

MARKO Arnautovic hopes he has put a difficult start to his West Ham career behind him.

The £24 million record signing had been made a scapegoat for the Hammers' poor start to the season.

Arnautovic was sent off in his second game for the club at Southampton and was booed as he left the field during the home defeat by Liverpool which cost previous manager Slaven Bilic his job.

New boss Moyes has simply told Arnautovic that if he does not put the yards in he will not play, and the message seems to have got through.

The 28-year-old was given a standing ovation as he limped off having run himself into the ground during the 1-1 draw with Leicester on Friday night.

"It was hard for me at the beginning of the season," Arnautovic told the club website.

"I got the red card, then I was ill when we played Swansea and it was hard mentally for me, but I think I'm ready, I'm fit and I hope I can give everything for West Ham."

"I'm not here for no reason, and I want to show the fans, the players and everyone involved at West Ham that they can count on me."

"I want to help the team, I want to give assists and score goals. Hopefully that can come in the future."

Things looked bleak on Friday night for West Ham, whose fans turned on the board and the players during last weekend's listless defeat at Watford, when Marc Albrighton put Leicester ahead after only eight minutes.

But Cheikhou Kouyate's header on the stroke of half-time secured a first point for Moyes and eased some of the tension surrounding the club.

Foxes defender Harry Maguire told LFCF TV: "It was maybe a fair point in the end."

"We started the game well, in the first half it was a little open and that suited our attacking players, but maybe we could have been more clinical."



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'Super sub' felt like a 'spare part'

ORIGINAL super sub David Fairclough believes the demands of the modern game make it much easier to be a squad player with 'special teams' capabilities – rather than feeling like a "spare part" as he sometimes did.

The former Liverpool striker earned his tag for his exploits off the bench – even though 92 of his 154 appearances and 37 of his 55 goals for the club came when he was named in the starting line-up.

Stoke's Peter Crouch has gradually morphed into the modern-day equivalent and made a record 143rd Premier League substitute appearance against Brighton on Monday, beating ex-Newcastle forward Shola Ameobi's tally set between 2000 and 2015.

Crouch will be 37 in January – Fairclough retired from the professional game aged 34 – and although



Peter Crouch

his contract expires next summer the player and Potters chairman Peter Coates have both spoken about an extension, and the way the modern game has changed will allow him to do so.

"In the old days the plan of the game was always about the XI – the 12th man was like the spare wheel in your car: you're not bothered about it until you need it," Fairclough said.

"You weren't part of the conversations and it was very difficult, but the role has evolved.

"It's not an 11-man game any more so it's much easier to be a substitute.

"The fact you have played 100 games as a substitute is not detrimental to your ability, people don't see you as being any less than the others.

"It is like special teams in American football; for different situations you bring the special team on.

Continued on facing page

SAINTS

Kelvin enjoying

Simon
Walter



ONE of Kelvin Davis's most disappointing defeats as a Saints player flashed through his mind during the U23s' recent Checkatrade Trophy defeat against Northampton Town.

Davis's first season with Saints ended in high drama when Grzegorz Rasiak's late goal took their two-legged 2006/07 Championship play off semi-final against Derby County to penalties.

But the Pride Park shoot-out ended in a 4-3 defeat – and Saints were in League One 15 months later.

Saints U23s' defeat at Northampton was, in a way, more calamitous.

Davis was at the Sixfields Stadium in his role as Saints' football development executive earlier this month as Saints lost on penalties – having led 3-0.

"The U23s is all about experience as a development group but that that was a tough evening for the boys," said Davis.

"Getting knocked out like that reminded me of that night in Derby. It rained constantly throughout the game.

"There are always two ways of looking at it. We threw away a 3-0 lead but you hope they learn from that.

"We're trying to create a group of players that understand the game and are always showing improvement and that will happen on the back of that type of result."

Davis continues to work his way towards his coaching badges and as part of that process took charge of the U23s first game after their Northampton nightmare.

"Personal development comes into my coaching and fortunately we've got staff who help me on a daily basis," continued the 41 year-old.

"I'm looking to complete my A licence by the end of the season and once you're an A-Licence coach a few doors could open for me."

The response to the Northampton defeat was as good as you could as the U23s beat QK Southampton 12-0 in the last 16 of the Southampton Senior Cup.

Saints are playing in the competition for the first time in 30 years and followed their 6-0 win against BTC Sports with a masterclass against a QK side that plays a level higher in the Hampshire Premier League.

"It was my debut as a lead coach," said Davis.

"It gives players who haven't been getting much football an op-

Former goalkeeper on his recent debut as a lead coach – in a 12-0 cup victory!



Olufela Olomola, left, and Harry Lewis, below left, are currently out on loan.



portunity to get games.

"It's a cup we don't normally enter so we're doing it in our role as a community club and attempting to win every game we're involved in.

"There's a big gulf but the lads have to recognise there are different sides of the game, while understanding that you carry on playing the Southampton way

and give 100 per cent while you're wearing that shirt."

Saints U23s followed their 12-0 win against QK with a 4-3 defeat at home to their Fulham counterparts in Premier League 2 on Monday night.

That was a Saints team including seven players with first-team experience in James Ward-Prowse, Jeremy Pied, Jack Ste-

phens, Matt Targett, Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, James Ward-Prowse, Sam McQueen and Jake Hesketh, who scored two of the goals at Northampton.

But the goals were provided by Tella and a Barnes brace, both players who would surely benefit from a loan spell.

"They're at that age where they're champing at the bit to

SAINTS



new Saints life



Flashback – Kelvin Davis with his Daily Echo Saints player of the season awards in 2008/09.



Marcus Barnes, above, in action for Saints during their Southampton Senior Cup win against QK at Staplewood. Pic by Matt Watson (Saints FC).

I've seen Harry and he's helping them do very well at the top of their league.

"I've also been to Norwich a few times to see Harry Reed. But I haven't been to Belgium to see Jordy Clasie!"

Dutch midfielder Clasie has only made three appearances for Belgian first division leaders Brugge while fellow midfielder Reed has made 12 starts for Norwich in the Championship.

"The beauty of modern technology is that we can get clips sent to us that we can look at from a coaching point of view," continued Davis.

"I haven't been to see Sam Gallagher at Birmingham yet but saw him at Blackburn Rovers last season.

"That was the perfect loan for him, scoring 13 goals and becoming a big commodity for the club."

Gallagher has scored one goal in 13 appearances for struggling Birmingham, but has mostly been deployed as a winger.

Ryan Seager has three in 13 starts for League One MK Dons, while former academy striker Olomola has scored seven goals in 15 starts for League Two Yeovil.

"I've been down to Yeovil a couple of times," continued Davis.

"Fela managed to get himself sent off last month [after scoring his seventh goal for the club in a 3-0 defeat against Stevenage] which was unfortunate.

"But overall it's been a very successful loan for him in terms of scoring goals. I'm sure he'll be on a lot of teams' radars."

'Evolved incredibly'

From facing page

"And the rewards in football are so good you are encouraged to think 'I might stay for a couple more seasons and sit on the bench because there are so many competitions I might get the odd game'.

"For us when we got to 35 you're thinking 'I have to get out of the game because I need to do something else', because you were not in a position to do anything."

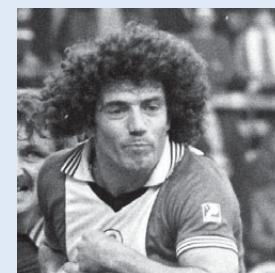
Crouch has yet to start a Premier League match for Stoke this season but is still the club's joint top goalscorer.

That is testament not only to his quality but to his role as a 'plan B' off the bench.

"People are aware of that threat and he knows that. That is a boost to your confidence (as a substitute)," added Fairclough, whose most famous substitute moment came with the winner which overturned a first-leg deficit against St Etienne in the European Cup quarter-final at Anfield in 1977.

"He's done it enough times now to know he can do it and everyone in the ground is aware.

"The substitute role has evolved incredibly from my time under Bob Paisley; managers now look for someone who can play that



Kevin Keegan

type of role and be effective."

It took a certain type of mentality to do the role as well as Fairclough did in the era of one substitute and limited substitutions, however.

"It was always a difficult situation and something you needed to accept," said Fairclough.

"In the first instance it was fine as I was a young lad trying to get a breakthrough but with (Kevin) Keegan, (John) Toshack and (Steve) Heighway you're thinking to yourself any bits you get you're grateful of.

"But as time wears on you get more confident and feel you should be playing more.

"Ninety-nine times out of 100, managers use three substitutes so you've a fair chance of getting some action.

"In my day unless there was an injury or a catastrophe the manager didn't use a substitute because the simple fact was you only had one option.

"That was a major frustration of being in that role."

play first-team football," acknowledged Davis.

"I've been there as a player, it's something you aspire to do.

"But it's about getting the time right for those guys, making sure they're ready and that they go to a club that is going to help them develop."

Part of Davis's remit is to be the point of contact with the club's

on-loan players.

Currently out on loan are goalkeeper Harry Lewis (Dundee United), Jordy Clasie (Club Brugge), Harrison Reed (Norwich City), Ryan Seager (MK Dons), Sam Gallagher (Birmingham City) and Olufela Olomola (Yeovil).

"I see all the guys but don't do it every week and certainly don't

spend my whole life on the road," continued Davis, who has managed to get to Scotland to see fellow goalkeeper Lewis.

The 19 year-old has kept six clean sheets in 17 appearances for the Scottish Championship leaders this season – including two in the last three games.

"Dundee being near an airport makes it one of the easier ones so

SAINTS FANS PICTURE SPECIAL, 2017/18



Shane Long poses for a picture prior to the home game with Newcastle.



Fans on the way to St Mary's prior to the Newcastle match in October.



SAINTS FANS PICTURE SPECIAL, 2017/18



Rival fans mixing together on the way to St Mary's for the Newcastle game.



Musical entertainment prior to the home game against Newcastle.



Saints legend Matt Le Tissier poses for a picture prior to the home game with Newcastle.



SAINTS FANS PICTURE SPECIAL, 2017/18



Maya Yoshida poses for a picture prior to the home game with Newcastle United.



Nathan Redmond signs a young fan's shirt before the home clash with Newcastle.



Sam McQueen poses for a picture before the home game with Newcastle.



Mario Lemina signs a fan's shirt prior to the home game with Newcastle.



The Southampton FC Sensory room during the Premier League match between Saints and Watford. Photo by Matt Watson/Southampton FC.



Fans shelter from the rain prior to Saints' home game against Watford.



A Saints fan at Brighton's Amex Stadium.



Saints fans at Brighton's Amex Stadium.

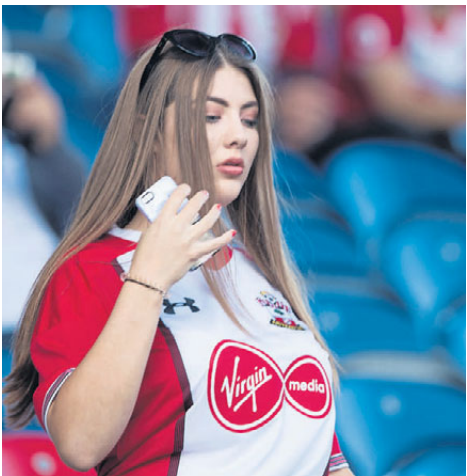
SAINTS FANS PICTURE SPECIAL, 2017/18



Saints fans waiting for kick off at Huddersfield.



Saints fans at Huddersfield.



Saints and Huddersfield Town fans make their way to the John Smith's Stadium.



Saints fans at Huddersfield.



Saints fans at Huddersfield.



Saints fans at Huddersfield.

Demands growing

SEAN Dyche believes the demands on top bosses are bigger than ever after a week in which another Premier League manager lost his job.

Dyche is the third longest-serving manager in the top flight and will come up against one of those to outlast him, Arsene Wenger, when Arsenal travel to Turf Moor on Sunday.

West Brom ended the tenure of Tony Pulis earlier this week despite a relatively successful spell in charge, while Everton caretaker David Unsworth appears to be on the brink after Thursday's Europa League humiliation.

Dyche said: "The demands on the job seem to be increasing year on year and there are many different reasons for that.

"It is either about being in the Premier League or, in the Championship, it is about wanting to be in the Premier League. They are very unforgiving places to manage at the moment.

"I think the demands are getting higher and higher. The owners are more 'out there' now, they have a lot of scrutiny on what they're doing and how they should be running their club.

"That can maybe change what their thoughts are and maybe crunch the statistics a little bit tighter on what happens to a manager."



Sean Dyche

Dyche will go into the game against the Gunners with his side on a high after last week's 2-0 win over Swansea, and a wealth of attacking options following striker Chris Wood's return from World Cup play-off duty with New Zealand.

Wood is expected to start in place of Ashley Barnes, who scored one of the goals against the Swans, while Sam Vokes, who appeared as a late substitute, will also be hoping for a start.

Dyche insisted he is not concerned by the memories of twin controversies in the two games against Arsenal last season - a Laurent Koscielny winner at Turf Moor and a late Alexis Sanchez penalty to deny Burnley a point at the Emirates.

Dyche added: "I'm not worried about righting the wrongs - I'm sure Arsene knows that I think those decisions went against us.

"It is an opportunity to measure ourselves against one of the top clubs. It's about building on what we have been doing and so far we have been doing well with that.

"There is no exact measurement - beyond the result, it is about how you are performing against the most powerful teams over a season.

"It is about the bigger picture and how the team is moving forward on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis."

PREMIER LEAGUE

Stat that shames

Simon Carter



TONY Pulis' dismissal by West Brom this week meant a quarter of all Premier League clubs had sacked their manager by mid November.

The number of top-flight sackings was already at a five-season high even before the Welshman's exit, with four up to November 20 - compared to the next highest mark of three by the same stage in the 2015-16 season.

The bosses previously fired so far this season were Frank de Boer (Crystal Palace), Craig Shakespeare (Leicester), Ronald Koeman (Everton) and Slaven Bilic (West Ham).

By this stage in the 2015-16 season Liverpool had sacked Brendan Rodgers and replaced him with Jurgen Klopp, Tim Sherwood had been axed by Aston Villa and Dick Advocaat had been dumped by Sunderland.

The Black Cats were also responsible for the only sacking by this stage in the 2013-14 season, when they dismissed Paolo Di Canio.

The only dismissal by this stage of last season was at Swansea, who sacked Francesco Guidolin.

There had been no sackings in the Premier League by this stage of the 2012-13 and 2014-15 seasons.

But the first of those seasons did feature two dismissals before the end of November - Roberto Di Matteo at Chelsea (November 21) and Mark Hughes at QPR (November 23). Hughes' departure came after struggling Saints had won 3-1 at Loftus Road the previous weekend.

If some fans had their way, even more Premier League managers would have been sacked by now.

Swansea City boss Paul Clement came in for renewed criticism after a 2-0 loss at Burnley last weekend kept the Welsh club in the drop zone.

That loss was Swansea's fifth in a row in all competitions, and left them second bottom with eight points from 12 games.

In addition, Saints boss Mauricio Pellegrino was jeered after his side's 1-0 home loss to Burnley earlier this month.

More fans took to social media last weekend to say Pellegrino should be sacked, following Saints' poor performance at Anfield.

The Swans, though, are in no mood to make a change.

American investors Steve Kaplan and Jason Levien ended a trip to Britain on Monday by assuring Clement and club officials that his job was not under threat

A quarter of clubs have already sacked their manager this season



- for now.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the five Premier League bosses sacked already in 2017/18 ...

Frank de Boer

In the 1992/93 season, the first ever Premier League campaign, there was only one managerial casualty - Chelsea's Ian Porter-

field.

That seasonal total was equalled in early September when Crystal Palace sacked de Boer after just four league games.

And the Dutchman had only been appointed in the summer!

A 3-0 opening day loss to newly promoted Huddersfield had alarm bells ringing almost straight away, before Sadio Mane's 73rd

minute goal saw Palace leave Anfield pointless.

Another poor home result - a 2-0 loss to Swansea - was followed by a fourth loss without a goal, 1-0 at Burnley.

And that was that. No patience by the Palace chairman Steve Parish, just panic.

In de Boer's place came ex-England boss Roy Hodgson, who



PREMIER LEAGUE

the top flight ...



Abu Dhabi GP factfile

The Formula One circus has parked up in Abu Dhabi for the final stop on this year's 20-race calendar:

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at the key statistics and trivia ahead of Sunday's race at the Yas Marina circuit.

* Sebastian Vettel ended his seven-race losing streak with victory in Brazil earlier this month. The Ferrari driver has won five races this season while Lewis Hamilton has recorded nine victories.

* Vettel is 22 points ahead of Valtteri Bottas in the race for second place in the championship. It means the German needs to finish only eighth here in Abu Dhabi to secure this year's runner-up spot. Elsewhere, Daniel Ricciardo is seven points ahead of Kimi Raikkonen in the battle for fourth.

* Hamilton started from the pit lane in Brazil after he crashed out of qualifying, but he became the first driver in three years to lead a race after starting from the pits. Hamilton was the last driver to do it, too, at the 2014



Sebastian Vettel

Hungarian Grand Prix.

* Hamilton has now finished 24 consecutive grands prix in the top 10 to join Michael Schumacher in second on the all-time list. Raikkonen holds the record with 27.

* Esteban Ocon's remarkable streak of 27 consecutive finishes however, ended in Brazil after he crashed out on the opening lap.

* Hamilton (2011, 2014, 2016) and Vettel (2009, 2010, 2013) have won on three occasions in Abu Dhabi, and have both started from pole three times, too. But, of the nine races staged here since 2009, only three drivers have won from the front of the pack.

* Hamilton has led 181 laps at the Yas Marina circuit, while Vettel (142) is next on the list.

* Brazilian Felipe Massa will compete in his 269th and final grand prix on Sunday before he bows out of the sport.



Before the smiles faded Ronald Koeman with Craig Shakespeare at Goodison Park last April.

at home by Tottenham, 4-0 at Old Trafford, and 5-2 at home to Arsenal.

That last result, on October 22, was one defeat too many and Koeman was axed the following day.

Slaven Bilic

Seemingly under pressure from the first game of the season, a 4-0 loss at Manchester United, the Croatian was sacked by West Ham after another 4-0 caning – this time at home to Liverpool earlier this month.

Bilic had only won one of his last seven league games, and during that run had also overseen a miserable 3-0 home loss to Brighton.

The Hammers' move to the London Stadium has not worked out well, and David Moyes has a tough task ahead of him.

Tony Pulis

Last season West Bromwich Albion finished 10th – as a result becoming the highest placed midlands club in the pyramid since the late 1970s.

But that lofty finish – by the Baggies' Premier League standards – counted for little a few months later.

Pulis was sacked last Monday, two days after a 4-0 home thumping by Chelsea took West Brom's league record to just four points out of a possible 40.

Pulis lost his last four games in charge – a run which had started with Sofiane Boufal's late wonder goal at St Mary's.

Had that game ended goalless, Pulis' Baggies would have been on the same amount of points as Saints after last weekend's games.

Such tiny margins mean so much in the Premier League ...



Tony Pulis was the fifth top flight manager sacked this season.

proceeded to lose his first three league games without scoring a goal as well!

Craig Shakespeare

Appointed as title winner Claudio Ranieri's successor at Leicester City last February, Shakespeare was sacked in mid October after a run of six league games

without a win.

Those matches had only delivered three points, but three of them were against Manchester United, Chelsea and Liverpool.

Ronald Koeman

The former Saints boss won his first four games of 2017/18 following the biggest summer spending

spree in Everton's history.

Three of them were in the Europa League, though, as well as an opening day 1-0 league victory over Stoke.

Everton then drew 1-1 at Manchester City, the only points Pep Guardiola's men have dropped all season.

But Everton's results then nosedived alarmingly – thrashed 3-0

SAINTS 1978/79 NOSTALGIA, PICTURE SPECIAL



Ipswich keeper Paul Cooper is beaten by a shot, which comes back off a post, October 1978.



Ted MacDougall scores against Bolton at The Dell.



Steve Williams challenges Derby's Roy McFarland.



Nick Holmes goes for goal against Ipswich, October 1978.



Trevor Hebbard, hidden, scores against Manchester City.



Top flight football, April 1979 style. Birmingham v Saints at St Andrews.



Graham Baker rises to head in against Bolton Wanderers.

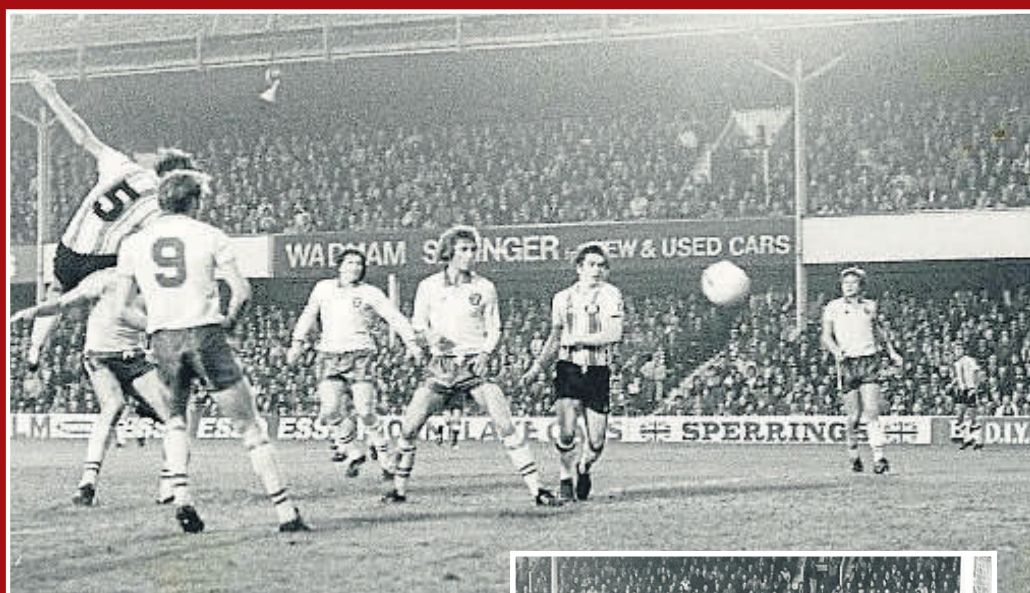


Austin Hayes is about to be brought down for a penalty by Tottenham goalkeeper Mark Kendall.



Austin Hayes on a mudbath at Birmingham City.

SAINTS 1978/79 NOSTALGIA, PICTURE SPECIAL



Chris Nicholl, above (5) heads in against Norwich at The Dell. Right – Malcolm Waldron taps in from close range against Coventry.



Ted MacDougall is on the ground, but raises his arms after scoring from close range against Ipswich.



Ted MacDougall heads in against QPR.



Phil Boyer heads in against Manchester United.



Phil Boyer hammers in a shot at Birmingham.



Saints have just scored at Birmingham, April 1979/80



Saints youth team players, April 1979. From left – Mark Harrison, Steve Richardson, Reuben Agboola, Mark Whitlock and Steve Baker.



Ted MacDougall is crowded out by Ipswich keeper Paul Cooper and defender Kevin Beattie.



Members of Saints' youth team (from left) Mark Whitlock, Steve Richardson, Reuben Agboola, Wayne Pratt, Joe Blochel, Martin McGrath, Mark Harrison, John Pang.

SAINTS 1978/79 NOSTALGIA, PICTURE SPECIAL



Coventry keeper Les Sealey appeals, but Malcolm Waldron's close range effort is allowed to stand.



Saints celebrate a goal at The Dell.



Ted MacDougall wheels away after scoring Saints' consolation in their opening day defeat at Norwich.



Inquest time. Mike Pickering and keeper Terry Gennoe after Ipswich had taken the lead at The Dell.



Phil Boyer hammers in a shot at goal against Wolves.



A great picture of Graham Baker rising unchallenged to head a goal.



Coventry defender Mick Coop keeps a close eye on Saints striker Phil Boyer at Highfield Road.



Phil Boyer is beaten to the ball at Norwich.

SAINTS 1978/79 NOSTALGIA, PICTURE SPECIAL



Ted MacDougall scores into an empty net against Wolves.



Norwich goalkeeper Kevin Keelan collects the ball at The Dell.



Nick Holmes fires a long range effort into the back of the Norwich net.



Terry Curran puts over a cross against QPR.



Chelsea goalkeeper John Phillips collects.



Trevor Hebbard on the run against Chelsea.



Alan Ball in action at Bristol City.



Trevor Hebbard scores against Coventry from close range.

United's big coffee deal

MANCHESTER United's portfolio of global affiliates gained a proud new addition on Monday, with German firm Melitta filling the club's urgent vacancy for an official coffee partner.

The deal will see more than 200 coffee machines and makers installed at Old Trafford, which will also be home to a Red Cafe serving the company's brews.

The Red Devils wheeled out the heavyweights to herald their caffeine boost, with Sir Alex Ferguson, Romelu Lukaku and Marcus Rashford all appearing in promotional material.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the club's other eye-catching commercial tie-ups.

MLILY

MLily of China etched its name in the United history books in October 2016 by becoming its first ever mattress and pillow partner. At the time the bed specialists vowed to "support United in helping the sleep and recovery of players". For those knocked out by the dreariest of defensive drills, the company also pledged to provide 'sleep pods' at United's Aon Training Complex. Former club captain Wayne Rooney, midfielder Juan Mata and defender Luke Shaw were the high-profile names called upon to lend some star quality to the announcement.

KANSAI PAINT

United's desire to recruit the best in the business extends far beyond the likes of Paul Pogba and Zlatan Ibrahimovic. When the suits were in the market for a new ally in the field of paint, they recruited a company they proudly describe as "among the top 10 coatings companies in the world" and "the largest coatings manufacturer in Japan and Africa".

20th CENTURY FOX

United landed one of the biggest names of all as their feature-film partner. Eagle-eyed fans at United's game against Bournemouth in May 2016 spotted the team mascots daubed in blue paint in honour of Jennifer Lawrence's X-Men character Mystique. But that was nothing compared to Rooney's cameo in an advert featuring the film's cast, during which he is selected as earth's representative to fight super-villain Apocalypse.

CHO-A PHARM CO LTD

Any United staff who come into prescription difficulties in Korea or Vietnam need not worry, for that is precisely the domain of their pharmaceutical partner in the region.

HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

This union has clearly been a success, with both parties agreeing to extend an initial four-year agreement by the same term last year. United's academy side play at least one match a year in Hong Kong as a result.

NISSIN FOODS GROUP

No longer listed as commercial partner on the club website but the inventors of the world's first ever instant noodle once boasted the distinction of being United's global noodle partner. A television advert saw Nissin's 'Red Samurai' dribble a ball through Manchester before a final skills showdown with black-clad foes at Old Trafford.

HANTS CRICKET

Vince given 'extra incentive'



James Vince.

JAMES Vince intends to ensure everyone in Australia knows who he is for the rest of this winter's Ashes.

That includes Australia great Matthew Hayden after Vince's 83 at the Gabba helped the tourists to 196 for four on a cagey, rain-shortened first day of the series.

Vince, who has previously played down under as an overseas star for Sydney Thunder, was spurred on to make a success of his Test comeback after hearing Hayden query the international pedigree of the majority of the

England team.

Former Test opener Hayden singled out captain Joe Root and other senior players, but otherwise described England as a "rabble" - before asking "Who are they?"

Vince also had critics to answer back home, where many questioned his inclusion on this tour after he was dropped with a sub-20 average and joint top-score of 42 in seven Tests up to August last year.

"Reading comments like that almost gives you an extra incentive to go out there and try to make a

statement," said the 26-year-old, who shared a crucial century stand with opener Mark Stoneman (53).

"If he (Hayden) didn't know who we were at the start of the day, he probably does now.

"I guess it just gives you a bit more inspiration and fight to go out there and try to prove people wrong."

Vince, who was run out by Nathan Lyon's direct-hit from cover, admitted: "In hindsight I wouldn't take the run, but it was a good pick-up and throw."

Holland targeting pre-season return



HAMPSHIRE all-rounder Ian Holland has undergone shoulder surgery to ensure he is fit for next season.

Holland had the surgery to repair a torn muscle and strained tendon in his bicep and is not expected to be playing cricket for his Australian club side, Ringwood CC, until late February at the earliest.

Ringwood CC captain David King told the Herald Sun newspaper: "He needs to get that (injury) right for his career of his first-class career over in the UK.

"It is obviously very disappointing for us losing a talent like that for a period of time but it is an injury and it happens.

"At best case we might get him back towards the end of the season with the bat, we won't get him with the ball, but best case we might get him in late February, (early) March.

"It all depends on what Hampshire say to be honest, they're paying him so they tell him what he can and can't do.

"We've just got to play it by ear and see how the surgery goes."

Holland had only played one first-class match before making his Hampshire debut in June.

The 27 year-old British passport holder finished the season with 233 runs at 33.28 and 19 wickets at 18.47 from Specsavers County Championship eight matches.

He also took three wickets in two Royal London One-Day Cup appearances and one in a T20 win at Lord's.



Ian Holland

Photo: Neil Marshall

HANTS CRICKET



Struck during day one of the Ashes Test match at The Gabba, Brisbane.



Walking off after being run out.



Dropped by Australia wicketkeeper Tim Paine, off Nathan Lyon, on 68.



James Vince's trademark cover drive.

Vince passes his Gabba Test

Echo Reporter

HAMPSHIRE star James Vince came of age as a Test batsman on the first day of the Ashes series.

Vince (83) responded to the departure of lynchpin opener Alastair Cook in the third over by sharing a century stand with Mark Stoneman.

After he was dropped by wicketkeeper Tim Paine on 68 pushing forward to Lyon, England's latest number three appeared on course for a maiden Test century only for the off-spinner to snatch it away with a brilliant direct-hit to run him out attempting a faulty single to cover.

Vince had stroked a succession of stylish off-side boundaries among his 12 fours from 170 balls,



Clipping the ball past fellow Ashes debutant Cameron Bancroft.

as he vindicated pre-tour predictions from the England camp that he has the ideal game to prosper in Australian conditions.

He previously flattered to deceive

in seven Tests, the last more than a year ago, averaging under 20 with a joint top-score of 42. But he answered his critics with typical elan at The Gabba toir.



Preparing to take evasive action.



During his 125-run partnership with Mark Stoneman (53) for England's second wicket.



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Timeline of Haye's injuries ...

David Haye has been forced to postpone his rematch with Tony Bellew after tearing his biceps during training.

It is the latest in a long line of injuries suffered by the 37-year-old.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at the heavyweight's injury record:

June 2009 - Haye withdrew from his dream fight with long-reigning world heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko after suffering a back injury during training. He insisted he only required a postponement of six-to-eight weeks, but Klitschko was determined to fight on June 20 regardless, and did so, stopping Ruslan Chagaev in nine.

November 2009 - Haye revealed, after winning the WBA heavyweight title against Nikolai Valuev, that he had broken his hand during the "second or third round" of his defeat of the giant Russian. His trainer Adam Booth also said he had tweaked his left elbow in the first, but he fought on to secure perhaps his finest win.

July 2011 - Haye blamed his



David Haye

defeat to Wladimir Klitschko in their world heavyweight title unification fight on a broken toe on his right foot that he suffered in training. Haye said the injury had hampered his movement, but the excuse drew widespread ridicule.

May 2013 - Then aged 32, and preparing to fight for the first time since the previous July, this time against Manuel Charr, Haye withdrew with a hand injury.

Their match-up was never rescheduled; he instead agreed to fight Tyson Fury.

November 2013 - Haye was forced to undergo a five-hour operation to rebuild his right shoulder and withdraw from the fight with Fury that had been scheduled for the following February.

Their match-up had already been postponed until then after he had suffered a cut by his eye during sparring.

March 2017 - After dismissing suggestions he had suffered an Achilles injury in the build-up to fighting Bellew, Haye suffered a ruptured Achilles that left him barely able to stand and in no condition to fight on.

He regardless did so, but struggled with it for five rounds until being withdrawn in the 11th.



PSC's Joe Murphy hurdles a Farnborough defender.



A curling left-foot shot by Lewis Wakeford is Symonds' winner.

Symonds through to colleges cup semi

Mike Vimpany



HOLDERS Peter Symonds are through to the Peter Munro Cup semi-finals – after overcoming a goalkeeping crisis that threatened to derail their prospects of beating Farnborough B.

Coaches Rob Kitley and Geoff Rolls faced a goalkeeping problem of epic proportions when they found that neither Josh Tombs nor Aaron Whitmarsh was available for the midweek second round tie, alongside the injured Sam Jerram.

So, fourth choice Shea McKay got the call – and turned in a star performance in Symonds' thrilling 3-2 win.

Symonds' problems didn't stop there because their second team was playing an AOC Cup tie against Guildford-based Merrist Wood on the adjoining Bereweek Avenue pitch – and they too didn't have a goalkeeper!

"We took Shea (McKay) off them and played a regular outfielder in goal – and they still won 3-1," beamed a delighted Rob Kitley.

Nick Berry-Green, Jabez Setters and the inspirational Ben Parkinson got the PSC goals – the win taking the side to Weymouth in round two.

Peter Symonds had already knocked Farnborough's A side out of the PMC, so – on paper – beating their B side looked a fairly academic exercise.

Anything but it transpired, Symonds trailed in a chances strewn game and had to come from behind in the second half to snatch a 3-2 win.

The two sides served up a thor-



Farnborough's Ben Brown climbs to win the ball.

Pictures: Neil Marshall

oughly entertaining tie, with Farnborough paying the penalty for fluffing a string of chances (albeit denied several times by McKay) as the impressive Theo Wolfarth created an opening on the left which PSC's Joe Sutherland calmly tucked away.

By half-time Farnborough were deservedly level – McKay pulling off a save to deny Matt Billingham, but Toby Illingworth followed up to make it 1-1.

Such are their student numbers, Farnborough's reserve team would comfortably hold its own in the Colleges Premier League – as PSC found out.

As the second half play switched from end to end, Sutherland bungled a great chance for PSC, while FB's Illingworth was denied a sec-

ond by the linesman's flag.

When Henry Patton then fired Farnborough ahead, it appeared as though Symonds' number might be up – but Wolfarth drilled in arguably PSC's goal of the season to make it 2-2.

Legs became tired as the inspirational McKay once again denied Illingworth and kept Symonds' in the game.

His save proved crucial as soon afterwards Lewis Wakeford broke to fire a superb left-foot winner for Peter Symonds.

PSC's reward is a home semi-final tie against Queen Mary's, who beat their Basingstoke neighbours in a penalty shot-out after the sides had slugged out a 4-4 draw.

There was another goal deluge

in the Portsmouth-Itchen tie, except that all 13 unanswered Itchen goals flew in the Pompey net!

James Smith and Ethan Taylor shared eight of the goals, with Will Gange and Jack Wilson scoring two each. Jake Willis-Dellimore got the 13th.

Itchen will now face Barton Peveril, who won 7-1 at Poole Grammar, Ollie Chambers helping himself to a hat-trick.

Substitute Josh Carey came off the bench to fire BP in front, while the second goal was a cracker from Nathan Jenvey.

Chambers then tucked into a hat-trick, while Matt Rickman and Carey scored either side of a Conal Burns penalty consolation goal for PGS.

Itchen and Barton Peveril have a Munro Cup dress rehearsal in the AOC Cup at Middle Road on Wednesday, 1.45.

● Hampshire Colleges bid to extend their sound start to the season when they host Hertfordshire in the South East Counties League under Alton's Anstey Park floodlights on Tuesday, 7.45.

They have so far fought out a goalless draw with Kent and thumped Surrey 5-0 in the ESFA County Cup.

Hampshire squad: Josh Tombs, Adam Smith (PSC), Connor Morley (Portsmouth), Jean-Luc Ramdin (Itchen), Josh Davies (BP), George Ockwell (BP), Theo Wolfarth (PSC), Henry Jordan (Portsmouth), Harry Prisk (BP), Ryan Penny (Sparsholt), Alex Haynes (BP), Wayne Nderemani (Sparsholt), Cameron Langan (Alton), Josh Corner (PSC), Mani Alli (Sparsholt), Jake Wilson (Farnborough), Shaquille Gwengwe (Portsmouth).

PINK

Chamberlayne storm to AJ Miller Trophy success

Chamberlayne stormed to a 5-1 win against Durley in the second round of the City of Southampton Sunday League's AJ Miller Trophy.

Seb Bridle (2), Marcus Bevan (2) and Ryan Stephenson were on target, with Owen Williams replying.

Linden Tree defeated Netley Spitfire 2-1 in the Charlie Godden Trophy thanks to goals from Archie Fitzpatrick and Dan Hawkins. Logan Lintott-Warrilow replied.

Nathan Corneby, Ikram Peruzi and Luke Walsh scored

as A.F.C Southbridge defeated RS Nomansland Reserves. John Tunstall and Dave Roberts replied.

● James Willis led the Fawley RBL goal spree as they hammered Boyatt Wood 9-0 in the Senior Division of the City of Soton Sunday League.

Further goals came from Dan Fry (2), Damo Davies (2), Jake Voller and Dave Otoworoski.

Charlie Ford hit a hat-trick as Testlands defeated R.S. Nomansland 4-1. Joe Crook

also scored, with Ali Harrison replying.

● Jamie Betteridge, Marcus Bucham and Liam Dwyer were on target as Winsor United defeated rock bottom Eastpoint 3-1 in Junior 1. Gift Ngubane replied.

Table toppers Hunters Inn crashed 4-1 to Lordshill. Bill Robinson and Mac Banaghan both struck twice, with Dan Hansford replying.

Lyndhurst drew 2-1 against second bottom A.F.C Riverside after leading 1-0

at half-time. Ben Bertram and Craig Stickland netted, with Lawrence Etheridge and Zbigniew Peplinski replying.

● Aaron Blaxall struck five goals as Portswood United thrashed rock bottom Curbridge 8-2 in Junior 2. Sam Bessant, Jimi John and an own goal also netted.

Landguard Rovers beat Marchwood Rovers 3-2 thanks to goals from Dennis Curtain and Gleb Voljensky (2). Ben Archdeacon and Kieran House replied.

Winters hat-trick as Arms progress

BARNEY Winters struck a hat-trick as Bedford Arms progressed to the semi finals of the Southampton Sunday FA Junior Cup.

Johnny Bines was also on target in a 4-3 victory over Hedge End Athletic. James Roden, Dan Turner and an own goal replied.

AFC Spitfire are also through to the last four after a 3-1 success against Mottisfont. Harry Bintcliffe, Reece Badger and Damian Slawkowski scored, with Mike McLeod replying.

O.T's & Romsey stormed into the last four with a 6-1 win at Test Valley Spartans thanks to goals from Mitch Down (2), Daniel Collins (penalty), Alex Bampton and Paul Tanner. Micheal Jayuasuru replied.

Chartwell Green lost 3-1 at home to Bitterne Ducks. Mitch Todd, Wayne O'Dell and Toby Withey netted as Bitterne Ducks won 3-1 at Chartwell Green. Lee Bore replied.

● Romsey Comrades boasted just two goalscorers in their 7-0 Southampton FA Sunday Junior B Cup thrashing of Meon Valley United.

Ben Jacobs struck four times and Nick White provided the other three goals.

Athletico Romsey won 3-1 on penalties against Chamberlayne Athletic 'A' after a 2-2 draw.

Steven Chandler-King and Owen Cox scored for Chamberlayne in normal time, while Marcus McCartney and Sam Hudson replied.

A.F.C Forestside netted through Sam Vidler (2) and Anthony Merriman in a 3-2 win against Empire, for whom Leon Course twice replied.

Hamwic Rovers beat A.F.C Stoneham 2-1 through Pawel Burdzy and Kamil Markiewicz.

Matt Veale's first half double gave Park Gate Panthers a 2-0 victory over Otter SFC.

James Belfield, Chris Boyles and Mike Bedford scored as AFC Itchen defeated Phoenix United 3-0.

Forest Home romped to a 6-0 win at Riverside Rangers thanks to Jonny Phillips (3), Adam Church (2) and Billy Morton.

Southern Sports won 5-4 on penalties against Chandler's Ford Athletic following a 2-2 draw.

Dailam Fard and Mike Orchard struck for Sports, with Alex Waldron and an own goal replying for Chandler's Ford.

Fard, Warren Attrill, Dan Hewes, Dan Hammond and Orchard converted their spot-kicks for Southern, with Tyler Gregory, George Fitzhewswell, Lee Farrant-Poole and Stuart Gooch.



Cherries' Charlie Daniels (left) and Swansea's Wilfried Bony during today's match at the Liberty Stadium – match report on pages 10-11

Airways fly to first league win

LONDON Airways finally claimed their first win of the City of Southampton Sunday League Junior 3 season with a 6-1 hammering of rock bottom Southampton Warriors.

James Boggild hit a hat-trick, with Chris Brown, Aaron McEwan and Ric D'Souza also on target. Andrew McCormack replied for Warriors, who for the first time this season didn't concede double figures.

Daniel Runnals (3) and Scott Saunders netted as Portside trounced Mayfield Rovers 4-1. Dale Perry replied.

A.F.C Dorchester netted through Jordan Smith and Keiran Hine in a 2-1 win against Royale Marine. Ryo Brown replied from the penalty spot.

Awesome foursome

JAMES Elmore struck all four goals – including a first half hat-trick – as new Junior 4 leaders Sholing Monks defeated Hedge End City 4-0.

Lewis Mintrim (2), Ben Gurman, Matt Bowers and Ben Mayne stuck as Dingle Rovers cased AFC Mayflower 5-0 in Junior 5.

● Second place Hedge End Club drew 2-2 with Whiteheart United in Junior 6. Aaron Evans and Tom Palmer struck with Jake Bessant and Lee Fuller replying for Hedge.

Douglas hits a hat-trick

SAM Driscoll struck a hat-trick as Southern Sports Reserves won 6-1 against Montfort in Junior 7.

Darren Chipp, Daryl Hinder and Jake Draper also scored, with Lee Painter replying.

AFC Mayflower Reserves defeated Wilton Wanders 3-2 thanks to goals from Alex Fleet, Ben Oliver and Dion Bone. Charlie Ward and Jordan Bedford replied.

SOUTHAMPTON EVENING CRICKET LEAGUE AWARDS



Hampshire batsman Joe Weatherley entertained guests during a Q & A session



SECL legend Doug Perry, who stood down as chairman after 37 years in the role at the start of the season



The Hampshire Cricket Board's Simon Jones addresses the guests



Division One winners Sarisbury CC also were also President's Cup runners-up



West End Saints won the SECL Indoor League. OTs & Romsey CC won the division two title and the Indoor Cup but were not present on the night



Sarisbury CC were also division one runners-up in the SECL's Indoor League



Division Two runners-up BAT CC

PICTURES: DAVE VOKES PHOTOGRAPHY



Division Two SECL winners Old Netley & Highfield CC were also Harold Diaper Rose Bowl Trophy runners-up



President's Cup winners Community CC with Joe Weatherley



Joe Weatherley presents the SECL Division Two trophy to Old Netley & Highfield CC



Joe Weatherley presents the SECL's Indoor League trophy to West End Saints CC



SECL president Tim Tremlett gave a passionate address thanking guests for their continued support



Joe Weatherley presents the President's Cup to Community CC



Community CC with the President's Cup

PINK LEAGUE FIXTURES 2017/18

| SAINTS | | CHERRIES | | POMPEY | | EASTLEIGH | | POOLE | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| PREMIER LEAGUE | | PREMIER LEAGUE | | LEAGUE 1 | | NATIONAL LEAGUE | | NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH | |
| AUGUST | | AUGUST | | AUGUST | | AUGUST | | AUGUST | |
| 12 Swansea (H) | D 0-0 | 12 West Brom (A) | L 0-1 | 5 Rochdale (H) | W 2-0 | 5 Bromley (A) | D 0-0 | 5 Weston SM (A) | W 2-1 |
| 19 West Ham (H) | W 3-2 | 19 Watford (H) | L 0-2 | 12 Oxford United(A) | L 0-3 | 8 Sutton United (H) | W 1-0 | 8 Bognor Regis (H) | D 2-2 |
| 26 Huddersfield (A) | D 0-0 | 26 Manchester City(H) | L 1-2 | 19 Walsall (H) | D 1-1 | 12 Dagenham (H) | D 2-2 | 12 East Thurrock (H) | L 2-3 |
| SEPTEMBER | | SEPTEMBER | | 26 Wigan (A) | D 1-1 | 15 Woking (A) | L 1-2 | 15 Chippenham (A) | W 1-0 |
| 9 Watford (H) | L 0-2 | 9 Arsenal (A) | L 0-3 | SEPTEMBER | | 19 Tranmere (H) | W 2-0 | 19 St Albans City (H) | L 0-1 |
| 16 Crystal Palace (A) | W 1-0 | 15 Brighton (H) | W 2-1 | 3 Rotherham (H) | L 0-1 | 26 Leyton Orient(A) | D 1-1 | 26 Bath City (A) | L 0-1 |
| 23 Man United (H) | L 0-1 | 23 Everton (A) | L 1-2 | 9 AFC Wimbledon (A) | W 2-0 | 28 Aldershot (H) | D 0-0 | 28 Hungerford (H) | L 1-2 |
| 30 Stoke (A) | L 1-2 | 30 Leicester (H) | D 0-0 | 12 Northampton (A) | L 1-3 | SEPTEMBER | | SEPTEMBER | |
| OCTOBER | | OCTOBER | | 16 Fleetwood (H) | W 4-1 | 2 Ebbsfleet (A) | D 2-2 | 2 Whitehawk (A) | D 2-2 |
| 15 Newcastle (H) | D 2-2 | 14 Tottenham (A) | L 0-1 | 23 Scunthorpe (A) | L 0-2 | 9 Guiseley (A) | D 0-0 | 5 Hemel Hempstead(H) | L 2-4 |
| 21 West Brom (H) | W 1-0 | 21 Stoke (A) | W 2-1 | 26 Bristol Rovers(H) | W 3-0 | 12 Maidstone (H) | L 0-1 | 9 Welling United (A) | L 0-2 |
| 29 Brighton (A) | D 1-1 | 28 Chelsea (H) | L 0-1 | 30 Oldham (H) | L 1-2 | 16 AFC Fylde (H) | D 2-2 | 11 Wealdstone (A) | L 1-4 |
| NOVEMBER | | NOVEMBER | | OCTOBER | | 23 Hartlepool (A) | W 2-1 | 23 Chelmsford City (H) | D 0-0 |
| 4 Burnley (H) | L 0-1 | NOVEMBER | | 8 Gillingham (A) | W 1-0 | OCTOBER | | OCTOBER | |
| 18 Liverpool (A) | L 0-3 | 4 Newcastle (A) | W 1-0 | 14 MK Dons (H) | W 2-0 | 3 Boreham Wood (A) | L 0-1 | 7 Oxford City (A) | W 3-2 |
| 26 Everton (H) | (A) | 18 Huddersfield (H) | W 4-0 | 17 Doncaster (A) | L 1-2 | 7 Wrexham (A) | L 1-2 | 21 Havant & W (A) | D 2-2 |
| 29 Manchester City (A) | (A) | 25 Swansea (A) | (A) | 21 Blackburn (A) | L 0-3 | 21 Gateshead (H) | W 3-2 | 28 Gloucester City (H) | L 0-3 |
| DECEMBER | | 29 Burnley (H) | (H) | 28 Bradford City (H) | L 0-1 | 24 Solihull Moors (H) | L 1-2 | 31 Concord (H) | (H) |
| 3 Bournemouth (A) | (A) | DECEMBER | | NOVEMBER | | 28 Macclesfield (A) | W 2-1 | NOVEMBER | |
| 11 Arsenal (H) | (H) | 3 Southampton (H) | (H) | 11 Blackpool (A) | W 3-2 | NOVEMBER | | 4 Eastbourne B (A) | W 4-0 |
| 13 Leicester (H) | (H) | 9 Crystal Palace (A) | (A) | 18 Southend (H) | W1-0 | 4 Chester (H) | D 2-2 | 11 Braintree (H) | L 0-3 |
| 16 Chelsea (A) | (A) | 12 Manchester United (A) | (A) | 21 Peterborough (A) | L 1-2 | 11 Dover (A) | L 0-2 | 18 Hampton & RB (A) | L 0-1 |
| 23 Huddersfield (H) | (H) | 16 Liverpool (H) | (H) | 25 Plymouth (H) | (H) | 18 Barrow (H) | L 0-2 | DECEMBER | |
| 26 Tottenham (12.30pm) | (A) | 23 Manchester City (A) | (A) | DECEMBER | | 21 Maidenhead(H) | D 2-2 | 2 Dartford (H) | (H) |
| 30 Manchester United (A) | (A) | 26 West Ham (H) | (H) | 9 Charlton (A) | (A) | 25 Halifax Town (A) | (A) | 9 Weston Super-Mare (H) | (H) |
| JANUARY | | 30 Everton (H) | (H) | 16 Bury (H) | (H) | DECEMBER | | 23 Bognor Regis Town (A) | (A) |
| 2 Crystal Palace (H) | (H) | JANUARY | | 23 Shrewsbury (A) | (A) | 2 Sutton United (A) | (A) | 26 Truro City (H) | (H) |
| 13 Watford (A) | (A) | 1 Brighton (A) | (A) | 26 AFC Wimbledon (H) | (H) | 9 Bromley (H) | (H) | JANUARY | |
| 20 Tottenham (H) | (H) | 13 Arsenal (H) | (H) | 30 Northampton (H) | (H) | 23 Dagenham (A) | (A) | 1 Truro City (A) | (A) |
| 31 Brighton (H) | (H) | 20 West Ham (A) | (A) | JANUARY | | 26 Torquay (H) | (H) | 6 Chippenham (H) | (H) |
| FEBRUARY | | 31 Chelsea (A) | (A) | 1 Bristol Rovers (A) | (A) | 30 Woking (H) | (H) | 13 East Thurrock (A) | (A) |
| 3 West Brom (A) | (A) | FEBRUARY | | 6 Fleetwood (A) | (A) | JANUARY | | 20 Welling United (H) | (H) |
| 10 Liverpool (H) | (H) | 3 Stoke (H) | (H) | 13 Scunthorpe (H) | (H) | 1 Torquay (A) | (A) | 27 Hemel Hempstead (A) | (A) |
| 24 Burnley (A) | (A) | 10 Huddersfield (A) | (A) | 20 Rotherham (A) | (A) | 6 Guiseley (H) | (H) | FEBRUARY | |
| MARCH | | 24 Newcastle (H) | (H) | 27 Shrewsbury (H) | (H) | 20 Maidstone (A) | (A) | 3 Gloucester City (A) | (A) |
| 3 Stoke (H) | (H) | MARCH | | FEBRUARY | | 27 Hartlepool (H) | (H) | 10 Havant & W (H) | (H) |
| 10 Newcastle (A) | (A) | 3 Leicester (A) | (A) | 3 Doncaster (H) | (H) | FEBRUARY | | 17 Eastbourne Borough (H) | (H) |
| 17 Swansea (A) | (A) | 10 Tottenham (H) | (H) | 10 MK Dons (A) | (A) | 3 AFC Fylde (A) | (A) | 24 Braintree (A) | (A) |
| 31 West Ham (A) | (A) | 17 West Brom (H) | (H) | 13 Blackburn (H) | (H) | 10 Boreham Wood (H) | (H) | MARCH | |
| APRIL | | 31 Watford (A) | (A) | 17 Southend (A) | (A) | 17 Chester (A) | (A) | 3 Hampton & RB (H) | (H) |
| 7 Arsenal (A) | (A) | APRIL | | 24 Blackpool (H) | (H) | 20 Maidenhead (A) | (A) | 10 Dartford (A) | (A) |
| 14 Chelsea (H) | (H) | 7 Crystal Palace (H) | (H) | MARCH | | 24 Halifax Town (H) | (H) | 17 Bath City (H) | (H) |
| 21 Leicester (A) | (A) | 14 Liverpool (A) | (A) | 3 Bradford City (A) | (A) | MARCH | | 24 St Albans City (A) | (A) |
| 28 Bournemouth (H) | (H) | 21 Manchester United (H) | (H) | 10 Gillingham (H) | (H) | 3 Barrow (A) | (A) | 30 Whitehawk (H) | (H) |
| MAY | | 28 Southampton (A) | (A) | 17 Oldham (A) | (A) | 10 Dover Athletic (H) | (H) | APRIL | |
| 5 Everton (A) | (A) | MAY | | 24 Oxford United (H) | (H) | 17 Leyton Orient (H) | (H) | 2 Hungerford (A) | (A) |
| 13 Manchester City (H) | (H) | 5 Swansea (H) | (H) | 31 Walsall (A) | (A) | 24 Tranmere (A) | (A) | 7 Chelmsford City (A) | (A) |
| | | 13 Burnley (A) | (A) | APRIL | | 30 Ebbsfleet (H) | (H) | 14 Wealdstone (H) | (H) |
| | | | | 2 Wigan (H) | (H) | APRIL | | 21 Concord Rangers (A) | (A) |
| | | | | 7 Rochdale (A) | (A) | 2 Aldershot (A) | (A) | 28 Oxford City (H) | (H) |
| | | | | 14 Plymouth (A) | (A) | 7 Wrexham (H) | (H) | | |
| | | | | 21 Charlton (H) | (H) | 14 Gateshead (A) | (A) | | |
| | | | | 28 Bury (A) | (A) | 21 Macclesfield (H) | (H) | | |
| | | | | MAY | | 28 Solihull Moors (A) | (A) | | |
| | | | | 5 Peterborough (H) | | | | | |

PINK LEAGUE FIXTURES 2017/18

GOSPORT

SOUTHERN PREMIER

AUGUST

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 12 King's Lynn Town(A) | L 0-2 |
| 15 Slough Town (H) | L 1-5 |
| 19 Royston Town(H) | L 2-3 |
| 26 Tiverton Town(A) | L 0-2 |
| 28 Basingstoke Town(H) | L 0-8 |

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 9 Biggleswade Town (A) | L 0-2 |
| 12 Farnborough (H) | L 2-4 |
| 23 Stratford Town (A) | L 0-2 |
| 26 Kings Langley (A) | D 1-1 |
| 30 Hitchin Town (H) | L 0-3 |

OCTOBER

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 7 Bishop's Stortford (H) | L 1-3 |
| 9 Dorchester Town (A) | L 2-7 |
| 14 Merthyr Town (A) | L 0-5 |
| 17 Banbury United (H) | L 0-4 |
| 21 King's Lynn Town (H) | PP |
| 24 Slough Town (A) | L 1-5 |

NOVEMBER

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 4 St Neots Town (H) | L 0-1 |
| 11 Frome Town (A) | PP |
| 15 Farnborough (A) | PP |
| 18 Dunstable Town(H) | W 1-0 |
| 25 Kettering Town (A) | |
| 28 Kings Langley (H) | |

DECEMBER

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 2 Hereford (H) | |
| 9 Redditch United (A) | |
| 16 Chesham United (H) | |
| 23 St Ives Town (A) | |
| 26 Basingstoke Town (A) | |

JANUARY

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1 Weymouth (H) | |
| 6 Royston Town (A) | |
| 13 Tiverton Town (H) | |
| 20 Bishop's Stortford (A) | |
| 27 Dorchester Town (H) | |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 3 Banbury United (A) | |
| 10 Merthyr Town (H) | |
| 17 Hitchin Town (A) | |
| 24 Statford Town (H) | |

MARCH

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 3 Dunstable (A) | |
| 10 Kettering Town (H) | |
| 17 Redditch United (H) | |
| 24 Hereford (A) | |
| 31 Biggleswade Town (H) | |

APRIL

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 2 Weymouth (A) | |
| 7 St Ives Town (H) | |
| 14 Chesham United (A) | |
| 21 Frome Town (H) | |
| 28 St Neots Town (A) | |

AFC TOTTON

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 12 Barnstaple Town(H) | W 3-1 |
| 15 Bishops Cleeve(A) | W 3-1 |
| 26 Slimbridge (H) | L 1-2 |
| 28 Salisbury (A) | L 0-2 |

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 9 Yate Town (H) | W 5-0 |
| 16 Taunton Town (A) | L 1-2 |
| 23 Larkhall (A) | W 1-0 |
| 26 North Leigh (H) | W 2-1 |
| 30 Wimborne (A) | D 1-1 |

OCTOBER

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 14 Cinderford (A) | L 0-1 |
| 21 Bideford (H) | PP |
| 24 Swindon Superm (A) | L 0-1 |
| 28 Didcot (H) | W 2-1 |

NOVEMBER

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 4 Kidlington (A) | D 0-0 |
| 11 Mangotsfield (H) | W 4-0 |
| 14 Didcot Town(H) | PP |
| 18 Shortwood (A) | W 3-1 |
| 25 Evesham United (H) | |
| 28 Wimborne Town (A) | |

DECEMBER

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 2 Cirencester Town (H) | |
| 9 Bristol Manor Farm (A) | |
| 16 Bishops Cleeve (H) | |
| 23 Barnstaple Town (A) | |
| 26 Salisbury (H) | |

JANUARY

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 Winchester City (A) | |
| 6 Taunton Town (H) | |
| 13 Slimbridge (A) | |
| 20 Mangotsfield (A) | |
| 27 Kidlington (H) | |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 3 Larkhall Athletic (H) | |
| 10 North Leigh (A) | |
| 17 Cinderford Town (H) | |
| 24 Paulton Rovers (A) | |

MARCH

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 3 Swindon Supermarine (H) | |
| 10 Bideford (A) | |
| 17 Bristol Manor Farm (H) | |
| 24 Cirencester Town (A) | |
| 31 Yate Town (A) | |

APRIL

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 2 Winchester City (H) | |
| 7 Shortwood United (H) | |
| 14 Didcot Town (A) | |
| 21 Wimborne Town (H) | |
| 28 Evesham United (A) | |

WINCHESTER

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| 12 Shortwood (A) | W 4-2 |
| 15 Kidlington (H) | L 0-1 |
| 26 Larkhall (A) | W 2-1 |
| 28 Wimborne (H) | W 1-0 |

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 9 Cirencester Town (A) | L 0-1 |
| 23 Mangotsfield (H) | W 3-0 |
| 26 Didcot Town (A) | L 0-2 |
| 30 Barnstaple (A) | W 4-1 |

OCTOBER

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 14 Bristol Manor Farm (H) | L 1-2 |
| 17 Paulton (H) | D 1-1 |
| 21 Taunton Town (A) | L 1-4 |
| 27 Salisbury (H) | L 4-5 |

NOVEMBER

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 4 Cinderford Town (A) | D 2-2 |
| 11 Bishops Cleeve (H) | W 2-1 |
| 18 Yate Town (A) | D 1-1 |
| 21 Swindon Superm (H) | W 3-2 |
| 25 Bideford (H) | |
| 28 North Leigh (A) | |

DECEMBER

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 2 Evesham United (H) | |
| 9 Slimbridge (A) | |
| 16 Kidlington (A) | |
| 23 Shortwood United (H) | |
| 26 Wimborne Town (A) | |

JANUARY

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 AFC Totton (H) | |
| 6 Paulton Rovers (A) | |
| 13 Larkhall Athletic (H) | |
| 20 Bishops Cleeve (A) | |
| 27 Cinderford Town (H) | |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 3 Mangotsfield United (A) | |
| 10 Didcot Town (H) | |
| 17 Bristol Manor Farm (A) | |
| 24 Barnstaple Town (H) | |

MARCH

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 3 Salisbury (A) | |
| 10 Taunton Town (H) | |
| 17 Slimbridge (H) | |
| 24 Evesham United (A) | |
| 31 Cirencester Town (H) | |

APRIL

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2 AFC Totton (A) | |
| 7 Yate Town (H) | |
| 14 Swindon Supermarine (A) | |
| 21 North Leigh (H) | |
| 28 Bideford (A) | |

SALISBURY

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| 12 Mangotsfield (A) | W 5-0 |
| 15 Paulton Rovers(H) | D 2-2 |
| 26 North Leigh (A) | L 1-2 |
| 28 AFC Totton (H) | W 2-0 |

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 9 Shortwood (A) | W 8-0 |
| 23 Yate Town (A) | W 1-0 |
| 26 Swindon Super (H) | L 0-2 |
| 30 Bishops Cleeve (H) | D 0-0 |

OCTOBER

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 14 Slimbridge (A) | W 5-2 |
| 21 Evesham United (H) | D 0-0 |
| 27 Winchester City (A) | W 5-4 |

NOVEMBER

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 4 Barnstaple Town (A) | W 2-0 |
| 11 Larkhall Athletic (H) | L 1-2 |
| 14 Kidlington (H) | PP |
| 18 Cinderford Town (A) | D 1-1 |
| 25 Bristol Manor Farm (H) | |
| 28 Didcot Town (A) | |

DECEMBER

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2 Bideford (H) | |
| 9 Taunton Town (A) | |
| 16 Paulton Rovers (A) | |
| 23 Mangotsfield United (H) | |
| 26 AFC Totton (A) | |

JANUARY

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 Wimborne Town (H) | |
| 6 Cirencester Town (A) | |
| 13 North Leigh (H) | |
| 20 Larkhall Athletic (A) | |
| 27 Barnstaple Town (H) | |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 3 Yate Town (H) | |
| 10 Swindon Supermarine (A) | |
| 17 Slimbridge (H) | |
| 24 Bishops Cleeve (A) | |

MARCH

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 3 Winchester City (H) | |
| 10 Evesham United (A) | |
| 17 Taunton Town (H) | |
| 24 Bideford (A) | |
| 31 Shortwood United (H) | |

APRIL

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 2 Wimborne Town (A) | |
| 7 Cinderford Town (H) | |
| 14 Kidlington (A) | |
| 21 Didcot Town (H) | |
| 28 Bristol Manor Farm (A) | |

WIMBORNE

SOUTHERN WEST

AUGUST

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 12 Bishops Cleeve(H) | W 3-1 |
| 15 Didcot Town (A) | L 2-4 |
| 26 Yate Town (H) | W 4-2 |
| 28 Winchester City (A) | L 0-1 |

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 2 Larkhall Athletic (H) | L 1-3 |
| 9 Bristol Manor Farm(H) | L 1-3 |
| 17 Evesham United (A) | W 2-1 |
| 23 Bideford (A) | W 2-1 |
| 30 AFC Totton (H) | D 1-1 |

OCTOBER

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 14 North Leigh (A) | D 1-1 |
| 17 Cirencester (H) | L 0-1 |
| 21 Swindon Super (H) | W 3-0 |
| 24 Paulton Rovers (A) | L 0-1 |

NOVEMBER

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 4 Shortwood United (H) | W 5-2 |
| 11 Cirencester Town (A) | W 2-1 |
| 14 Taunton Town (A) | PP |
| 18 Mangotsfield (H) | W 3-1 |
| 25 Slimbridge (A) | |
| 28 AFC Totton (H) | |

DECEMBER

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 2 Barnstaple Town (A) | |
| 9 Kidlington (H) | |
| 16 Didcot Town (H) | |
| 23 Bishops Cleeve (A) | |
| 26 Winchester City (H) | |

JANUARY

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1 Salisbury (A) | |
| 6 Evesham United (H) | |
| 13 Yate Town (A) | |
| 20 Cirencester Town (H) | |
| 27 Shortwood United (A) | |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 3 Bideford (H) | |
| 10 Larkhall Athletic (A) | |
| 17 North Leigh (H) | |
| 24 Cinderford Town (A) | |

MARCH

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 3 Paulton Rovers (H) | |
| 10 Swindon Supermarine (A) | |
| 17 Kidlington (A) | |
| 24 Barnstaple Town (H) | |
| 31 Bristol Manor Farm (A) | |

APRIL

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 2 Salisbury (H) | |
| 7 Mangotsfield (A) | |
| 14 Taunton Town (H) | |
| 21 AFC Totton (A) | |
| 28 Slimbridge (H) | |

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PINK

RESULTS

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Premier League

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Crystal P | 2 | Stoke | 1 |
| Lotus-Chew 56 | | Shaqiri 53 | |
| Sakho 90 | | Att 23,723 | |
| Liverpool | L | Chelsea | L |
| HT 1-0 | | | |
| Man Utd | 1 | Brighton | 0 |
| Dunk 66 og | | Att 75,018 | |
| Newcastle | 0 | Watford | 3 |
| HT 0-0 | | Hughes 19, Yedlin 45 og | |
| Swansea | 0 | AFC Bournemouth | 0 |
| HT 0-0 | | Att 20,228 | |
| Tottenham Hotspur | 1 | W.B.A. | 1 |
| Kane 74 | | Rondon 4 | |
| HT 1-1 | | Att 65,905 | |

| | HOME | | | | | | AWAY | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|---|---|---|----|----|------|---|---|----|----|----|--|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | Pt | |
| Man City | 12 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 4 | 34 | |
| Man Utd | 13 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 29 | |
| Chelsea | 12 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 4 | 25 | |
| Tottenham | 13 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 19 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 5 | 24 | |
| Liverpool | 12 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 16 | 22 | |
| Arsenal | 12 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 22 | |
| Burnley | 12 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 22 | |
| Watford | 13 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 20 | |
| Brighton | 13 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 16 | |
| Huddersfield | 12 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 15 | |
| Leicester | 13 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 14 | |
| Bournemouth | 12 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 14 | |
| Newcastle | 13 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 14 | |
| SAINTS | 12 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 13 | |
| Stoke | 13 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 13 | |
| Everton | 12 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 12 | |
| W.B.A. | 13 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 11 | |
| West Ham | 13 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | |
| Swansea | 13 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 9 | |
| Crystal P | 13 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 13 | 8 | |

SkyBet Championship

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|---|
| A. Villa | 2 | Ipswich | 0 |
| Adomah 38,66 | | Att 40,427 | |
| Barnsley | 0 | Leeds Utd | 2 |
| HT 0-0 | | Samuel 23, Aliotti 45 | |
| Burton Albion | 0 | Sunderland | 2 |
| HT 0-0 | | Vaughan 84, Honeyman 88 | |
| Fulham | 1 | Millwall | 0 |
| Norwood 45 pen | | Att 17,984 | |
| Hull | 2 | Bristol C | 3 |
| Campbell 33 | | Att 4,808 | |
| Bowen 61 | | Brownhill 89 | |
| HT 1-0 | | Att 14,762 | |
| Middlesbro | 0 | Derby City | 0 |
| HT 0-1 | | Yidda 13,47 pen, 53 | |
| Norwich | 0 | Preston North End | 0 |
| Madison 34 | | Att 21,167 | |
| Reading | 0 | Sheff Wed | 0 |
| HT 0-0 | | Att 18,382 | |
| Sheff Utd | 0 | Birmingham | 0 |
| HT 1-1 | | | |
| Wolves | 5 | Bolton | 1 |
| Boyl 13 | | Buckley 74 | |
| Leo Bonatelli 26, Ivan Cavaleiro 62 pen, 82 | | Att 27,894 | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|
| Wolves | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
| Cardiff | 18 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 16 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 37 |
| Sheff Utd | 18 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 13 | 11 | 36 |
| A. Villa | 19 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 15 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 9 | 35 |
| Bristol C | 19 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 34 |
| Derby City | 18 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 13 | 32 |
| Middlesbro | 19 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 13 | 32 |
| Leeds Utd | 19 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 15 | 16 | 29 |
| Nottingham | 18 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 27 |
| Ipswich | 18 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 17 | 18 | 26 |
| Sheff Wed | 19 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 18 | 26 |
| Fulham | 19 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 15 | 16 | 23 |
| Preston | 19 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 16 | 23 |
| Norwich | 19 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 24 |
| Brentford | 18 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 15 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 23 |
| O.P.R. | 18 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 20 |
| Barnsley | 18 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 20 |
| Reading | 18 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 15 | 10 | 19 |
| Millwall | 19 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 15 | 10 | 19 |
| Hull | 19 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 25 | 19 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 18 |
| Birmingham | 18 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 19 | 15 |
| Sunderland | 19 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 16 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 15 | 14 | 14 |
| Burton Alb | 19 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 23 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 23 | 14 | 14 |
| Bolton | 19 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 17 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 19 | 13 |

SkyBet League One

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| AFC Wimbledon | 1 | Walsall | 2 |
| Taylor 36 | | Outman 15, Bakayoko 31 | |
| HT 1-2 | | Att 4,130 | |
| Blackburn | 2 | Bristol R | 1 |
| Mulgrew 61, Samuel 67 | | Att 11,660 | |
| HT 0-0 | | | |
| Doncaster | 2 | M K Dons | 1 |
| Narques 54, Blair 71 | | Att 7,743 | |
| HT 0-1 | | | |
| Fleetwood Town | 0 | Blackpool | 0 |
| HT 0-0 | | Att 5,035 | |
| Gillingham | 0 | Oldham | 0 |
| HT 0-0 | | Att 4,364 | |
| Northampton | 0 | Bury | 0 |
| HT 0-0 | | Att 4,870 | |
| POMPEY | 0 | Plymouth | 0 |
| Naiman 25 | | Att 17,923 | |
| Rochdale | 2 | Peterboro | 0 |
| Andrew 33, Camps 36 | | Att 2,555 | |
| HT 2-0 | | | |
| Rotherham | 3 | Wigan | 3 |
| Ball 16 | | Grigg 14, Bruce 28 | |
| HT 1-2 | | Att 8,463 | |
| Scunthorpe | 2 | Charlton | 0 |
| Morris 60,63 | | Att 4,307 | |
| HT 0-0 | | | |
| Shrewsbury | 0 | Bradford | 0 |
| HT 0-0 | | Nisala 55 og | |
| HT 0-0 | | Att 7,165 | |
| Southend | 1 | Oxford Utd | 1 |
| Cox 19 | | Att 6,797 | |
| HT 1-1 | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Wigan | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
| Shrewsbury | 19 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 8 | 42 |
| Scunthorpe | 19 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 40 |
| Bradford | 20 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 11 | 36 |
| Blackburn | 18 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 6 | 34 |
| Charlton | 18 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 34 |
| POMPEY | 20 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 10 | 18 | 33 |
| Peterboro | 19 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 14 | 14 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 28 |
| Oxford Utd | 20 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 20 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 12 | 27 |
| Blackpool | 19 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 17 | 27 |
| Fleetwood | 20 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 16 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 17 | 27 |
| Rotherham | 19 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 24 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 26 |
| Walsall | 19 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 16 | 14 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 14 | 25 |
| Southend | 19 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 22 | 25 |
| M K Dons | 20 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 24 |
| Doncaster | 20 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 23 |
| Oldham | 19 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 17 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 19 | 23 |
| Bristol R | 19 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 16 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 11 | 20 | 21 |
| Rochdale | 19 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 20 |
| Wimbleton | 20 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 20 |
| Gillingham | 20 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 20 |
| Northampton | 20 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 17 | 22 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 19 |
| Bury | 20 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 17 | 17 |
| Plymouth | 20 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 19 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 17 | 17 |

SkyBet League Two

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Barnet | 0 | Grimsby | 2 |
| HT 0-1 | | Matt 6, Jones 15 | |
| Cambridge | 1 | Stevenage | 0 |
| HT 0-0 | | Att 2,033 | |
| Carlisle | 1 | Morecambe | 1 |
| HT 0-0 | | Thompson 72 | |
| Coventry | 1 | Crawley | 0 |
| HT 0-1 | | Att 5,010 | |
| Crewe | 1 | Luton | 2 |
| Mullins 81 og | | Hylton 63, Berry 67 | |
| HT 0-0 | | Att 4,571 | |
| Exeter | 2 | Acc Stanley | 0 |
| Boateng 45, Sweeney 86 pen | | | |
| Forest Gm | 1 | Cheltenham | 0 |
| Doigie 8 | | Eisa 39 | |
| HT 1-1 | | Att 3,641 | |
| Lincoln City | 3 | Port Vale | 0 |
| Green 11 | | Pugh 45 | |
| Booth 53, Waterfall 70 | | | |
| HT 1-0 | | Att 1,562 | |
| Mansfield | 2 | Chesterfield | 2 |
| White 26 | | Rowley 14 | |
| Diamond 88 | | Kallick 58 | |
| HT 1-1 | | Att 7,525 | |
| Notts Cnty | 1 | Colchester | 1 |
| Ameobi 68 pen, Yates 90 | | Odelusi 89 | |
| HT 0-0 | | Att 6,770 | |
| Swindon | 0 | Newport County | 0 |
| HT 0-0 | | Tozer 76 | |
| Wymond | 2 | Yeovil | 1 |
| Eze 37, Jacobson 43 pen | | Zoko 44 | |
| HT 2-1 | | Att 3,834 | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Luton | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
| Notts Cnty | 20 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 22 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 41 |
| Acc Stanley | 20 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 37 |
| Lincoln City | 20 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 15 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 16 | 36 |
| Wymond | 20 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 16 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 33 |
| Coventry | 20 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 8 | 32 |
| Mansfield | 20 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 16 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 18 | 31 |
| Swindon | 20 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 16 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 19 | 9 | 32 |
| Newport Cnt | 20 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 15 | 30 |
| Lincoln City | 20 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 30 |
| Colchester | 20 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 17 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 29 |
| Grimsby | 20 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 11 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 15 | 29 |
| Cambridge | 20 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 16 | 17 | 28 |
| Carlisle | 20 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 17 | 27 |
| Stevenage | 20 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 18 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 26 |
| Cheltenham | 20 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 |
| Crawley | 20 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 12 | 29 | 20 |
| Yeovil | 20 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 12 | 29 | 20 |
| Crewe | 20 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 18 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 20 | 20 |
| Forest Gm | 20 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 19 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 20 | 20 |
| Morecambe | 20 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 19 |
| Port Vale | 20 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 18 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 18 |
| Barnet | 20 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 17 | 17 |
| Chesterfield | 20 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 21 | 17 |

Ladbros Scottish Prem

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